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From rush hour traffic to rushing water *Soldier uses training, saves man from drowning*

SGT. JORDAN E. WERME
130TH PAD

Some of the things we learn in high school we know we'll never use later in life. Most of us don't use geometry every day. Very few of us are required to perform complex chemical experiments after graduation. But some high school students go out of their way to learn skills that will help them later in life.

Skills that will help them help others.

Skills that will help them to save lives.

When she volunteered for Army National Guard service the summer before her senior year of high school, Sgt. Kristi J. Artigue, 23, now a medic with the 141st Medical Company, it was a chance to broaden her experiences.

"I've always been a risk taker," said Artigue.

On Nov. 10, Artigue called upon the skills she's learned during her six years of National Guard service, including a recent deployment to Iraq, to help save the life of a man who very likely may have drowned had she not been there to help.

"I was passing by (Supersonic Car Wash, West Haven) after work when I saw my boyfriend's car," said Artigue. "I called him to say 'Hi', and he told me someone had had a seizure and fallen into the water."

Her first reaction: call 911. Artigue told her boyfriend, Dawud Hanif, 25, that he should call for emergency services, but because of the urgent tone of his voice, she pulled out of rush-hour traffic in New Haven and rushed to the scene.

When Artigue arrived, she found a group of people hanging onto the shore and forming a "chain," trying to keep a man above the fast-moving water.



Sgt. Kristi J. Artigue, 141st Medical Company, New Britain, poses beside an M997 Army ambulance. Artigue, while not on military duty, assisted in the rescue of a drowning man in West Haven on Nov. 10. Artigue jumped into West River, pulling the man to safety, allowing paramedics to attend to him. (Photo by Sgt. Jordan E. Werme, 130th PAD)

Tom, a middle-aged man, had suffered a seizure and fallen into a section of the West River. Unable to swim, Tom struggled to remain above the surface with the help of several civilians and two West Haven police officers. The chain was trying to hang on until the local fire department rescue crew could arrive, but everything seemed to Artigue to be well under control.

Then all of sudden Tom was no longer connected to the chain, and he was going under the surface.

"He let loose," said Artigue, "and went under for one or two seconds. Long enough to know he wasn't going to be coming up again. And he was moving out farther from the shore toward the center of the river."

At that point, Artigue let her training take over. The nursing student and Iraq War veteran jumped into the freezing water and

swam out about ten feet to where Tom was struggling for air.

"It was too cold to talk," said Artigue, "but I grabbed his vest and tried to keep him above the water. He grabbed a hold of me and started to pull me down with him, but I was able to drag him by his vest to shore."

The human chain helped to pull both Artigue and Tom out of the water. On a cold November day, coming out of cold, moving water, communication was difficult, but Artigue was able to keep Tom talking and conscious until emergency crews arrived. Tom was then taken to a local area hospital for treatment.

"(The man) suffered a seizure and fell from a bridge," said Patrol Officer William E. Ciccocanti, 25, a three-year veteran of the West Haven Police Department and the first officer at the scene of the incident. "(Artigue) risked her own safety to save a stranger. She

definitely did a good job and should be commended for that."

Tom was fishing from a bridge when he suffered the seizure, tumbled over the railing and fell more than seven feet into the water, just a few feet from the spot where the river is dammed. Had Artigue not jumped into the water when she did, there was a good chance that the victim would have been pulled under and into the dam, said Ciccocanti.

"This was the first time I've had to take it upon myself to take action," said Artigue. "In the military there's always someone there to help, but this time I wasn't sure anyone else there could have helped the way I could. Being in the military has given me the confidence to do things I wouldn't have as a civilian. It puts me a step above those without military training."

A future trauma nurse, Artigue plans to use her experiences in the Guard and in Iraq to save as many lives as possible.

"Since Iraq," she said, "I've learned to adapt and overcome.

I saw what was happening and I had no option but to get involved because of not only my medical training, but also because of my personal responsibility.

"I will always appreciate my military experience. It's something I would never give up," said Artigue. "When I get put in different situations I figure out a way to make it work, because if it doesn't work someone is going to die."

The lessons of high school geometry and chemistry classes may be long behind, but the lasting lessons of military training and deployment continue to serve Sgt. Kristi Artigue as effectively as ever before, and by extension are benefiting the members of her community.

Artigue learned to do something special. She saves lives.

Commander's Corner



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

December, 2006

Dear Members and Families of the Connecticut Military Department:

Last year during this time, I wrote of my pride in the outstanding men and women who serve in our National Guard, and how you represent the finest traditions of our state. I told you that you were, without doubt, the new "greatest generation."

With another year having passed and the Holiday Season upon us again, I find myself reflecting on all of you who serve, as well as your families. My pride has grown as I have watched more Connecticut units deploy in support of the Global War on Terror, helping to preserve the security of our nation and bringing freedom to nations where generations have never experienced the freedoms they may now enjoy because of America's efforts. I have seen units complete their missions in Iraq and return home in time to enjoy the Holidays with their families.

There are 970 Soldiers and Airmen from the Connecticut National Guard deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan protecting and preserving freedoms so hard won.

In every case, there are family members left behind to carry on without their loved ones. I, and everyone in Connecticut, appreciate the sacrifices made by all of you and your families.

On behalf of my family and the entire state of Connecticut, I thank you for your service and wish you a happy, healthy and safe Holiday Season and a prosperous, peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

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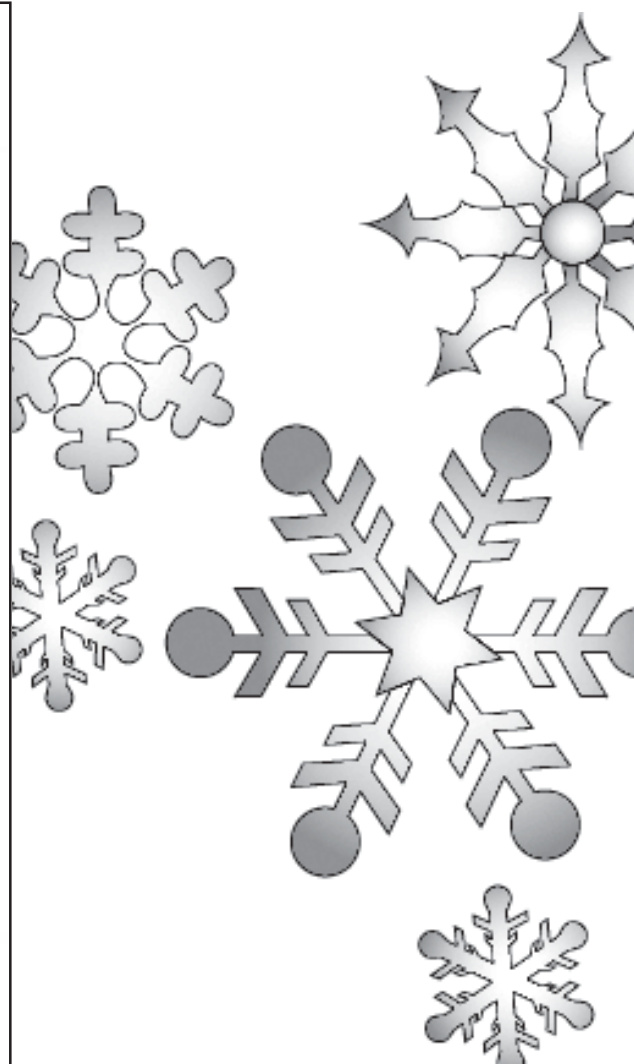
First Company Governors Foot Guard

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December 2006

To the Soldiers and Airmen of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard:

In this season of hope, fellowship and goodwill, I extend my sincere best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season and a Happy New Year to the members and families of the Connecticut National Guard. I truly appreciate your extraordinary commitment to the needs of your communities, state and nation.

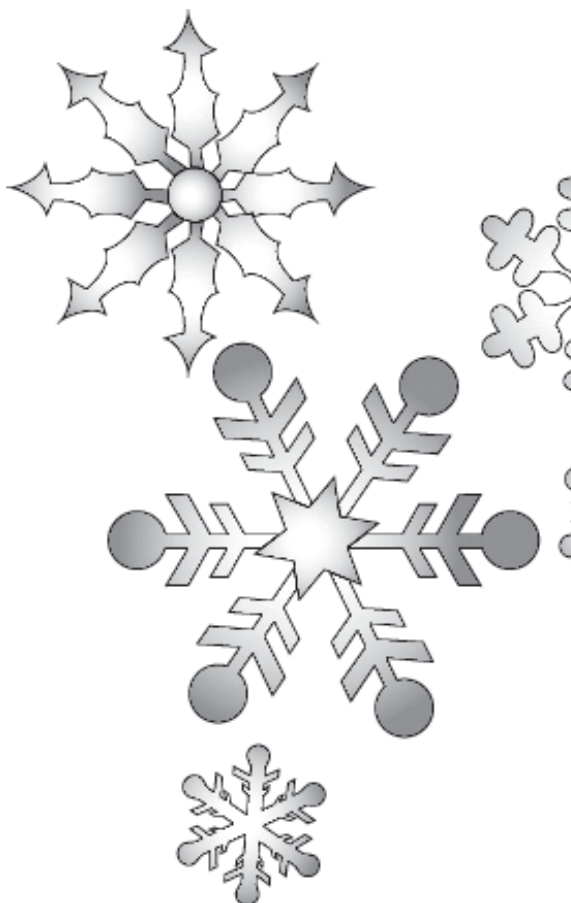
We have accomplished a great deal over this past year. Our Connecticut Guard is as strong as ever, and our commitment to supporting the needs of our Soldiers and Airmen remains firm. We can all take pride in contributing to the successes of the past year.

As I write this, nearly one thousand Connecticut Soldiers and Airmen are serving the needs of our nation, both at home and abroad. Let us be reminded of their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their families. Let us also give thanks for those who have returned safely and pray for the safe return of those still serving.

Kerry and I thank you and your families for the dedicated service you provide and wish you a blessed, rewarding and safe holiday season. May you all enjoy good health and happiness in 2007.

Sincerely,

THADDEUS J. MARTIN
Major General
The Adjutant General



Chaplin heads to South Pole for summer in December

MAJ. GEORGE H. WORRALL III
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER 103RD FIGHTER WING

In December, the North Pole gets a lot of public attention with Santa's workshop dioramas, news reports about letters to Santa and Christmas Eve sleigh sightings. Meanwhile at the opposite pole, the 100-day summer work season fills the South Pole research and logistics stations with activity rivaling Santa's elves.

Supporting the work season this year, a Connecticut Guard member will spend December ministering to the military and civilians at the South Pole Research Station and McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

"I will be doing counseling to the whole population at McMurdo," said Lt. Col. Rafael A. Marquez, wing chaplain, 103rd Fighter Wing. "A lot of civilians are there for construction."

McMurdo has a Chapel so the chaplain will also perform traditional religious services.

"I will be doing religious services for the Protestants," said Marquez. "A New Zealand priest will do the Catholic services."

Chaplain Marquez has researched the location and is looking forward to a rare opportunity to provide some services at the pole itself.

"This is the busy time ... 100 days of summer with 24 hours of daylight at the pole," said Marquez. "I expect to go to the pole at some point, which will be a privilege as not too many people get to go."

Antarctica is the highest and driest continent on earth, covered by a two-mile sheet of ice. The pole itself is remarked each year as the ice moves about 30 feet each year and grows thicker with snowfall that never melts. The science is of particular interest to Marquez as the people where he works.

"One of the things that I like about it as a school administrator is I will probably be exposed to the latest scientific experiments for our science dept," said Marquez, a traditional Guard member who is a school administrator for Monticello High School, in New York. "They are all waiting to hear about what is being researched."

The Guard has a long history of support to both poles and the Air National Guard flies

everything to the South Pole research station. This mission is entrusted to the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard, and their ski equipped LC-130s.

Chaplain Marquez was offered the chance to minister "on the ice" from the Guard's Chief Chaplain.

"I got a call from Chaplain Charbonneau [Col. William Charbonneau, chief of chaplains, National Guard Bureau] who asked if I would go to fill in for a chaplain assigned that had to bow out for family reasons," said Marquez. "I jumped at the

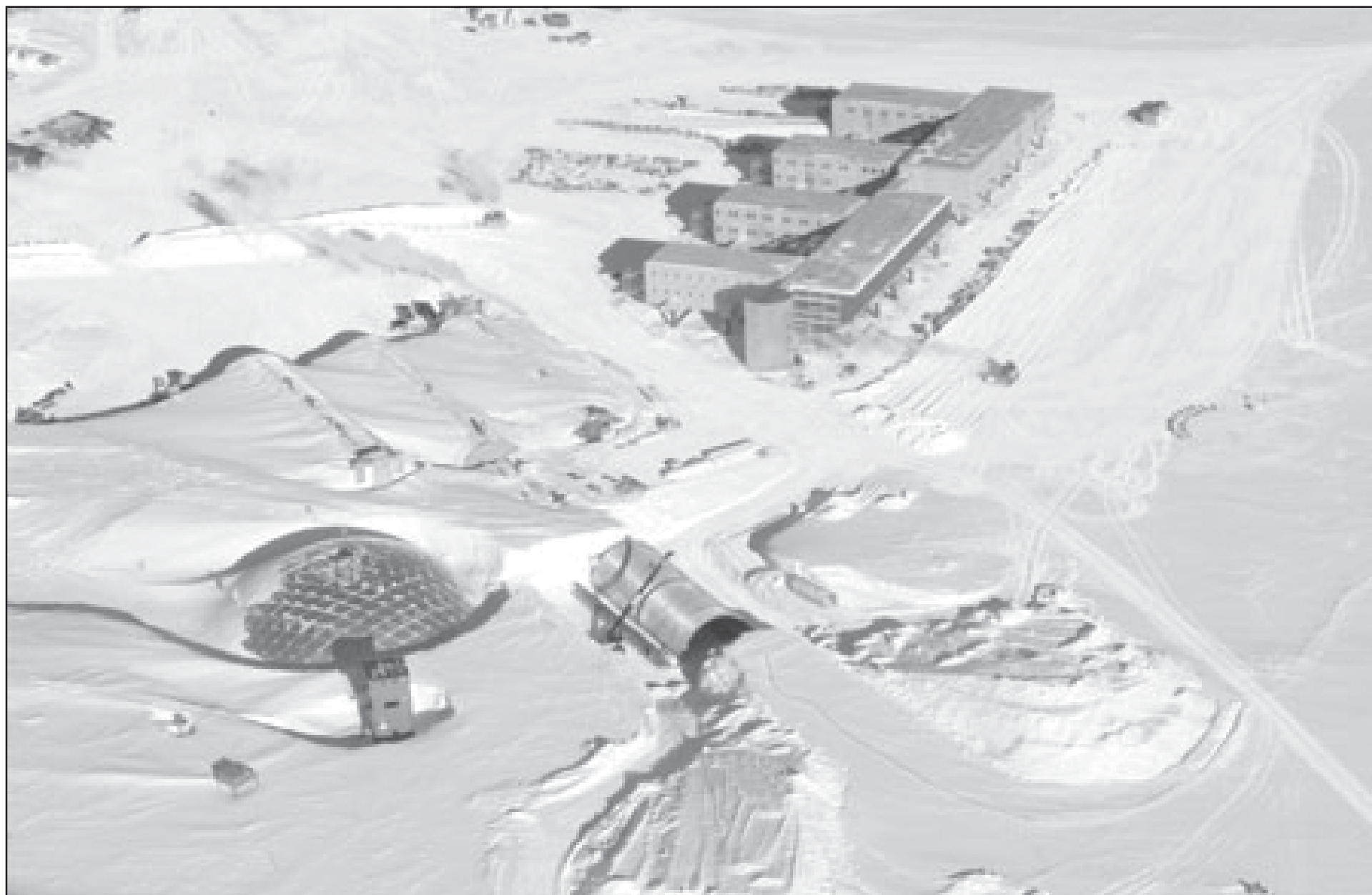
chance and really want to thank him, this is quite an opportunity."

Chaplain Marquez is no stranger to challenging assignments.

"This is my eighth deployment since I have been in the military, first to the south pole," he said. He recalled two remote assignments to Korea after being drafted into the Army in 1972, service in the first Gulf War and Bosnia with the Army Reserve, then Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and casualty assistance work following 9-11 at the Pentagon since joining the 103rd Fighter Wing.



A LC-130 Hercules from the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing touches down at the South Pole on Oct. 30, 2006. The flight commemorated the first plane landing at the pole 50 years ago. (U.S. Air Force photo)



South Pole Station January 27, 2006, the new W-shaped station has replaced the former station located under the geodesic dome in the lower left. (Photo by Ethan Dicks, National Science Foundation)

Patriotism, country music, humor greet troops in Afghanistan on Thanksgiving

KATHLEEN T. RHEM
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan, Nov. 23, 2006 — U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan are the embodiment of the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage, country singer Michael Peterson told troops here during a Thanksgiving concert.

Peterson, here courtesy of the United Service Organizations, accompanied Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey, senior enlisted advisor for Gen. Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as he visited U.S. troops at three different bases in Afghanistan today. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel R. Wood, the top enlisted member in Combined Joint Task Force Afghanistan, accompanied them on the trip.

"General Pace wants me to tell all of you that he's very proud of you and to stay focused," Gainey told a group of service members in Forward Operating Base Gardez, his first stop of the day.

After eating a traditional Thanksgiving meal with Soldiers from the Connecticut National Guard, Gainey spent time explaining his role as senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and thanking the troops for serving far from home on Thanksgiving. He also told the troops their mission is as important as that of service members in Iraq.

Peterson, a Grammy Award-nominated singer and songwriter, then had the group alternating between stitches and tears as he combined deep-rooted patriotism with sometimes-ribald humor in his remarks and songs. He's sold more than a million records, but doesn't travel with an entourage — just an acoustic guitar and a cowboy hat.

Peterson's heartfelt respect and admiration for service members was evident in every remark. "I'm like a lot of others: When our country was hit (in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks), I knew I wanted to do something, but I didn't know what to do," he said before launching into a patriotic song about the value of veterans and the American Legion. He's donating half the profits from the song to the Legion's Legacy Scholarship Fund, which takes care of college scholarships for students whose parents have been killed in action.

"So I'm doing what I can with what I have and where I'm at," he said. "That's why I'm out here, just trying to be one team, one fight with you guys and trying to close the gap between the military and the civilians."

He also thanked the troops for their service. "More than anything, I say, 'Thank you' on this Thanksgiving Day," Peterson said. "My hat's off to you."

A table in the base's brand-new dining

facility sported paper leaves with handwritten messages about what the troops were thankful for. Some were sweet: children, family, spouses, God, etc. Others were more practical to deployed service members: rest-and-relaxation leave, Kevlar, Gortex, bacon. And still others raised eyebrows: "Not being dead," read one, while others proclaimed their authors' thanks for such things as Rick James, snow, Puerto Rico and cheerleaders.

Peterson and Gainey next traveled via Black Hawk helicopter to Forward Operating Base Ghazni, where they spoke to and entertained about 20 Soldiers during a brief stop. Peterson's patriotic bent continued there. After singing a song titled, "I'm a Soldier," he told the troops that what they're doing matters.

"I believe if we don't stop them here, they'll bring the fight to us. You are the ones that are changing the world," he said. "How do I know that? Because I stood yesterday with the Afghan National Army at their training center, and I can't really put into words what I saw and what I felt, except that I knew I was seeing people that were getting a taste of something they had never known their whole lives, and that's the taste of freedom."

The singer thanked the service members for "a commitment to patriotism that lives not just on your lips, but in your hearts."

"I know some days it doesn't feel like it, some days you're probably just flat wore out, tired and want to go home, and maybe Thanksgiving's one of them," he said, "but you're making a difference. I saw it yesterday."

Finally the group set down at Bagram Air

Base, headquarters of Combined Joint Task Force 76 and the main air hub for coalition forces into and out of Afghanistan. Peterson, Gainey, Wood and several other senior enlisted leaders donned aprons and dished up chow for about an hour as they greeted troops and continued to thank them for their service. Army Gen. John Abizaid, chief of U.S. central Command, and other senior officers served meals at a different dining facility across the base.

Just before a performance by the Air Force "Tops in Blue" touring group here, Peterson performed for half an hour before about 400 service members who obviously appreciated his humor and his message.

After first suggesting that frequent deployments were the key to marital bliss, Peterson shared his top two tips for lengthy marriages. He said married men should forget all their mistakes. "There's no reason for two people to remember the same bad thing for the rest of their lives," he said.

His second tip: Never let your wife cut your hair when she's mad at you. "Never a good idea," he said.

The roar of helicopters overhead sometimes cut through the festivities, a reminder that military operations here don't stop for holidays, no matter how significant.

Peterson also traded hats with a young Soldier who's a huge country music fan. Army Spc. Candace Smith walked away with Peterson's cowboy hat, which he had hand carried from the states in a protective plastic case, and he'll wear a 10th Mountain Division baseball cap home tomorrow.

"He was great," Smith said. "I loved it!"

Then Peterson got serious, earning respect and cheers from many in the standing-room-

only crowd when he explained that he left the music industry 10 years ago as he was on the cusp of being a household name. After 700 concerts in fewer than three years, he was on the verge of sacrificing his family for stardom when he decided to leave it behind.

"It was a lousy career decision, but I've still got my family," he said. "And you know what I figured out? If you're lucky, you'll maybe get a second chance to do with your life what you love to do whether you're famous or not, but you may not get a second chance at your family. So I know I made one of the greatest decisions I ever made."

But patriotism drove him back into music. "I knew that I still loved to do music. What happened to me was a daughter who became a battalion commander in a Junior ROTC group of about 350 high school students, combined with 9-11, combined with seeing a cover of a Sports Illustrated magazine with Pat Tillman on it and how deeply that moved me and inspired me," Peterson said at Bagram.

His voice choked with emotion when he spoke of Tillman, a National Football League star who left a \$3 million contract behind to enlist in the Army Rangers after Sept. 11. Tillman was killed in a friendly-fire incident in Afghanistan.

He performed a brand-new song called, "I remember, America," which carried a message for service members everywhere. "I'll never forget the day, Sept. 11, 2001, when those b*****s tried to blow our dreams away," Peterson sung. "And my prayer for you tonight is that you get the job done and come home safe again."



Country singer Michael Peterson entertains members of Connecticut's 102nd Infantry in Afghanistan on Thanksgiving. (Photo by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service)

U.S. units securing, rebuilding Afghanistan in small steps

KATHLEEN T. RHEM
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GHAZNI, Afghanistan, Nov. 24, 2006 – Bringing stability to provinces in Afghanistan and bringing areas under control of the national government is a two-step process that's progressing steadily in small steps.

U.S. forces operating under NATO's International Security Assistance Force at nine forward operating bases in Regional Command East and two in Regional Command South fall into two main categories: provincial reconstruction teams and maneuver units.

"Maneuver will go in, and we'll take an area controlled by the Taliban or insurgent forces," Army Sgt. Maj. Bryan Gran, the operations sergeant major for Task Force Iron Grays here, said yesterday. "We'll take it from 'red' — meaning controlled by the enemy — and we'll conduct operations in order to get rid of the enemy to make it more hospitable for the PRT to operate in."

"We get rid of the bad guys, then the (U.S. Agency for International Development) and the engineers and all those people that are going to work on the infrastructure will come in," he added.

Gran, a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard's 102nd Infantry, said it's important for an area to be relatively secure before infrastructure improvements can begin.

"We don't want to go out and build stuff when the enemy is just going to burn it down," he said.

Progress has been steady in TF Iron Grays' area of operations, which is all of Ghazni province — 28,000 square kilometers. In the seven months that the 102nd Infantry Battalion, of the Connecticut National Guard, has run TF Iron Grays, the unit has gained a lot of ground in the security arena.

"We've done a lot of kinetic (traditional military) operations; a lot of the bad guys are pretty much going away," Gran said.

At Forward Operating Base Gardez, Task Force Vanguard officials report similar progress. "We've been busy running the bad guys out of the woods," Army Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Walker, TF Vanguard's senior enlisted advisor, yesterday told Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Gainey made Thanksgiving visits to several bases in Afghanistan.

Task Force Vanguard is the operational element for maneuver missions in Paktika and Logar provinces.

"It's a challenge to get out and make sure you can provide security so the PRT can build schools and infrastructure," Walker said.

Gainey praised the way maneuver and reconstruction teams are working in concert to make huge gains in Afghanistan.

"The task forces are gaining trust using kinetic capabilities in support of the non-kinetic capabilities of the PRTs, who are the ones who are doing the work of winning hearts and minds," he told American Forces Press Service.

The continuing success of the PRTs in many areas is allowing the maneuver units in those areas now maintain security without engaging in firefights.

"They're winning engagements without a single bullet being fired," Gainey said. "That's what every soldier would like to do."

He said he believes that helping Afghans in the provinces to help themselves is winning a battle in its own right. "Soldiers are used to winning battles by pulling triggers," Gainey said. "It might be more challenging to win without pulling the trigger, but the results are often more lasting."

Task Force Vanguard is working to improve security in the region around FOB Gardez even though the unit is a brigade special troops battalion — the communications,

intelligence, military police, and other support troops who support combat arms units.

This unit made up of various support troops is performing tasks normally done by infantry units, explained Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Redmore of Task Force Spartan, the brigade-level headquarters that oversees TF Vanguard and other units. "They're working as a maneuver battalion task force, but they're not combat arms," he said.

Morale is particularly high in Task Force Spartan because the unit is organized under the Army's relatively new modular brigade concept, Redmore said. The unit's members were formed into a unit, then trained together, deployed together, are serving together and will re-deploy home together.

"Morale is as high as it could be considering it's Thanksgiving and these soldiers are away from home," Redmore said in an interview. "Cohesiveness is much higher, especially under challenging and trying times."

"Everyone here is a brother," he added.

The sergeant major acknowledged that service members will have bad days and deal with challenges. "But it helps when soldiers can lean on each other," he said.

Redmore said service members of TF Spartan understand their roles and that what they're doing is important. "What they're doing has reason and gives them something to be proud of," he said.



Members of the Connecticut Army National Guard's 102nd Infantry are in Afghanistan operating under NATO's International Security Assistance Force. (Photos courtesy Det. 1, Company B, 1/102nd Infantry, CTARNG)



U.S. Military operations evolve as Afghan army becomes more capable

KATHLEEN T. RHEM
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

FORWAD OPERATING BASE GHAZNI, Afghanistan, Nov. 24, 2006 – U.S. military operations and missions have changed since the early days of Operation Enduring Freedom and will continue to change as the Afghan National Army becomes a more capable and respected force.

“Every operation we do, we do with the ANA,” Army Sgt. Maj. Bryan Gran, operations sergeant major for Task Force Iron Grays here, said in a Thanksgiving Day interview. “If a squad of our guys goes out, a platoon of their guys goes out; if a platoon of our guys goes out, a company of their guys goes out.”

Task Force Iron Grays comprises the 102nd Infantry Battalion, of the Connecticut Army National Guard. The unit falls under the 10th Mountain Division here and works in concert with Afghan army units throughout the 28,000-square-kilometer Ghazni province.

“We will not go into a compound by ourselves,” Gran said. “We do not kick down doors any more; those days are over.”

Instead, Afghan soldiers search homes and compounds while U.S. forces provide an outer security perimeter. “They kick the door down or knock on the door,” Gran said. “We’re providing the additional security — the big guns so nobody messes with them.”

Coalition forces in Ghazni are spending thousands of dollars to improve schools, roads and other infrastructure, Gran said, all in the cause of expanding the influence and standing of the democratically elected Afghan national government.

“I think there is a genuine concern now among the government to see running water and electricity (in the provinces),” Gran said.

Afghan citizens need to see that “being able to follow their own beliefs and their own system is the way to go, and they’re only going to be able to do that if they do it for themselves,” he said. “The Taliban’s not going to do it for them. The U.S. forces are not going to do it for them.”

The key is getting people to understand that their lives will be better under the Afghan government, then they will stop tolerating the Taliban and insurgents, officials said.

“Once that attitude gets down to the lowest individual — that patriotism matters — I think then we’ll be out of here,” Gran said.

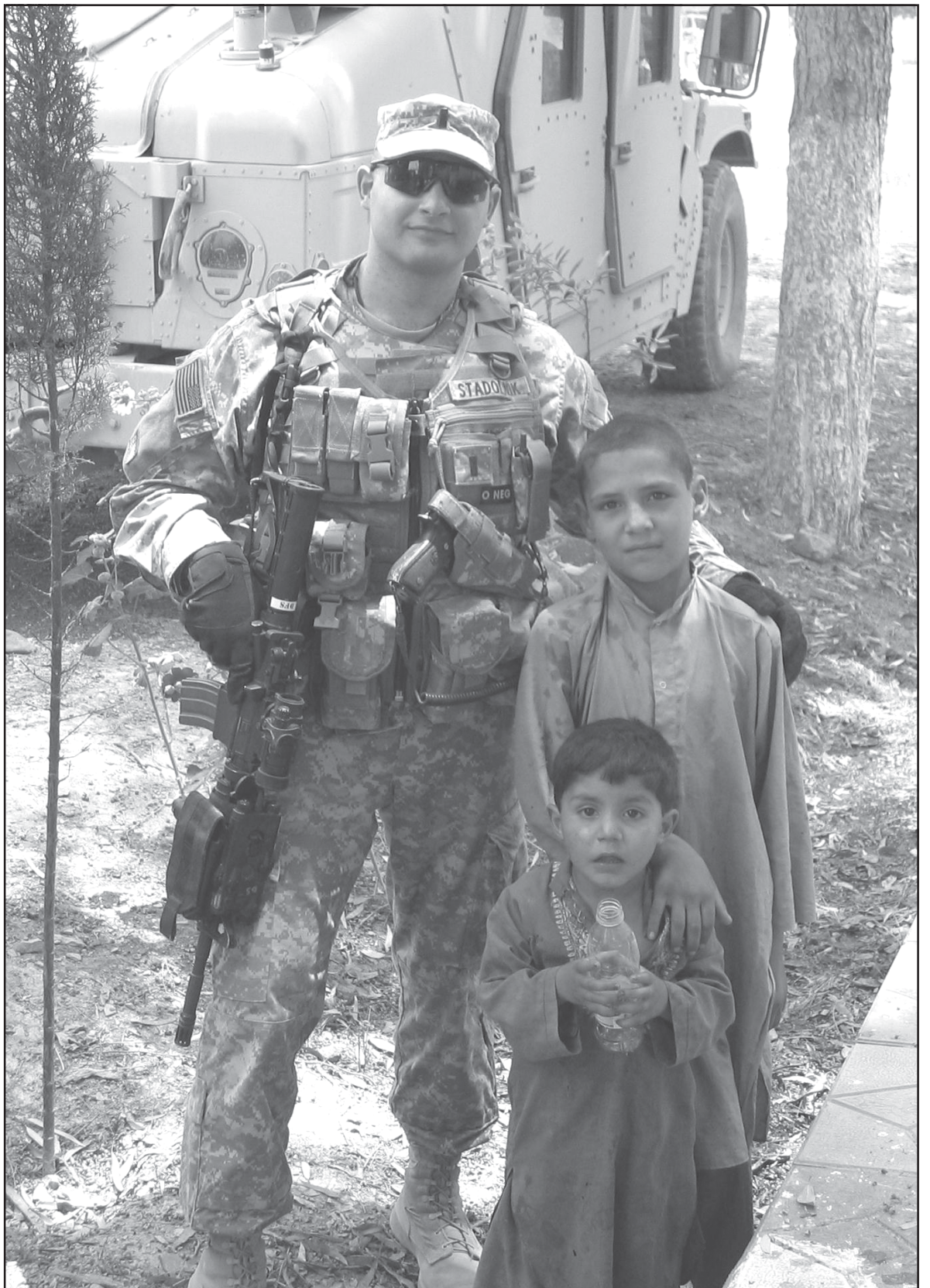
“It’s a slow road. If anybody thinks you can come in here and change a nation overnight, you can’t” he said. “Can you come in here and destroy the enemy? We did. But that’s not going to change them; it’s not going to change the way (Afghans) think. It takes time to believe in it.”

Gran said he believes the biggest challenge U.S. forces in Ghazni province face now is “to make enough difference that when follow-on units come we don’t lose any ground.”

“Historically what I think you see as units change over year after year is there’s a little gap because it takes time for somebody to get in country, ... and then figure out what you’re doing here and carry that on,” he said. “I think that’s a challenge — that we’re able to create an environment and then take that environment and effectively pass it on to the 82nd Airborne (Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C.,) when they come in.”



US forces are working to provide the Afghan people and army the independence to support their democratically elected government on their own. (Photos courtesy of Det. 1, Company B, 1/102nd Inf., CTARNG)



U.S. Soldiers work with Afghan army to fortify, instill discipline

KATHLEEN T. RHEM
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GHAZNI, Afghanistan, Nov. 24, 2006 — As winter tightens its grip on Afghanistan — higher elevations already are snow-covered — U.S. forces are striving to fortify their Afghan National Army counterpart units and instill professional discipline to keep the Afghan soldiers on duty year-round.

“Traditionally, they all go home in winter,” Army Sgt. Maj. Bryan Gran, operations sergeant major for Task Force Iron Grays here, said in a Thanksgiving Day interview. “We’ve got to try to get them away from that. And the way to do that is we’ve got to provide them with suitable living quarters so that they can stay.”

Task Force Iron Grays comprises the 102nd Infantry Battalion, of the Connecticut Army National Guard. The unit falls under the 10th Mountain Division here and works in concert with Afghan army units throughout the 28,000-square-kilometer Ghazni province.

Military campaigns in Afghanistan throughout history have been cyclic with the seasons. Harsh conditions in the mountainous terrain have driven poorly supplied and equipped forces home during the worst winter months.

“Winter is very cold in this country, and it’s important to plan,” Afghan Command Sgt. Maj. Roshan Safi, recently appointed sergeant major of the Afghan National Army, told American Forces Press Service.

“We’re trying to teach them how to not be a ‘summer soldier,’ where they can gather up what they can and go out and fight until it’s exhausted and then go home,” said Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Mark Payton, senior enlisted advisor for the 755th Expeditionary Support Squadron, an Air Force composite group responsible for building up Afghan National Army logistics capabilities.

Working out of the Afghan National Army Logistics Command Headquarters in Kabul and in five regional logistics depots around the country, military logistics experts from the United States and other coalition countries are working to prepare the Afghan forces “so they can carry the fight for their country, for the future, so that they can plan and be prepared to meet any obstacle that they’re going to face,” Payton said in an interview.

“Before this Log Command, we did not have this good system in this country. Lot of times the soldier, he didn’t get anything,” Roshan said. “But right now we have depots everywhere soldiers are deployed. They are getting their uniforms, boots, everything.”

Cultural and economic conditions in Afghanistan also stymie coalition forces’ efforts to simply keep Afghan soldiers at their posts. Large percentages of Afghan soldiers — as many as half in some areas — return to their homes during the religious

holy month of Ramadan, officials said.

Poor banking systems in the country, combined with the fact that most people in this rural-based culture have no access to technology that allows such concepts as checking accounts or money transfers, cause many Afghan soldiers to disappear for a period whenever they get paid to bring money to their families. Many also return home to help during harvest periods.

“Unlike our Army where I’m here for Christmas and I’m here for Thanksgiving, that’s our job and we’re going to do it; they’re not so much like that,” Gran said.

There’s no easy fix for the problem, he explained. It could take years or generations to change economic realities and cultural mores in Afghanistan.

Gran said the Afghan soldiers of the 203rd Kandak, which operates in Ghazni province, are good soldiers and perform well operationally, “but they’re a young army, and it takes time to build that mindset of discipline,” he said.



Members of the 102nd Infantry are serving in Afghanistan training and assisting members of the Afghan National Army. The infantrymen are helping the Afghan soldiers prepare to fight in the mountainous terrain during the harsh winter months. (Photos courtesy of Det. 1, Company B, 1/102nd Infantry, CTARNG)



Senior-level Connecticut Soldiers vie to train Afghan leaders

Spc. FELICIA WHATLEY
130TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Volunteers from the Connecticut Army National Guard are competing for limited slots in a scheduled deployment to Afghanistan as part of Task Force Phoenix. Soldier Readiness Processing for the candidates began Nov. 4, at Camp Rell for this all-volunteer mission that will begin in early summer of 2007.

More than 40 senior-level Soldiers from the CTARNG are hoping to get one of 16 available slots for the opportunity to mentor and advise the Afghanistan army's top officials.

"We are a nation at war," said Col. Mark A. Russo, commander, 169th Leadership Regiment. "This is an opportunity to serve as an influential source. This is what we all signed up to do and now it's time to do it."

Joint Force Task Force requirements include a rank of sergeant first class through colonel and mission-specific skills in signal, infantry, logistics, personnel and intelligence.

"We will be providing assistance to the Afghan army in an advisory role. We will be helping accomplish their goals and assist in supplying security," said Russo.

It is important that the Soldiers selected for this mission be of certain ranks because they will be imbedded with Afghan's top leaders. The Soldiers' years of experience in the U.S.

Army will be valuable to the mission.

"This will be my first overseas mission," said Maj. Jonathan Graham, commander, Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, Joint Forces Headquarters. "I am towards the end of my career, with 20 years served. This will be a good experience if I am accepted as a volunteer."

At the SRP, Soldiers worked through various administrative tasks. Their 201 files were assessed and updated. They worked with the legal section processing power-of-attorneys. The Soldiers also went through the finance section, ensuring that their pay was in order. The final station was medical, where hearing and vision screenings were performed and physicals and immunizations were assessed. Many Soldiers received vaccination shots on the spot.

"There are 26 people here processing today and it is going very smoothly. We are almost done. We are making sure Soldiers update their emergency information (and life insurance policies)," said CWO John Godburn, SRP coordinator, Joint Forces Headquarters.

The next phase of the pre-deployment process will begin at Fort Reilly, Kansas in the spring where the final selection for the

mission will occur.

"We will be setting up to rotate out Soldiers that are already downrange. The current structure deploys many states to compromise Task Force Phoenix," said Russo.

During the 60 days at the mobilization site, Soldiers will undergo leadership training, focus on physical fitness, brush up on marksmanship and train for theater-specific operations.

"When we get in country we will be doing the right-seat-left-seat training. We will be working alongside the Soldiers whose slots we will be replacing—first as an observer then more actively involved as we rotate out as the next joint task force next summer," said Russo.

There will be a lot of individual training as well as team building as Soldiers from all over the United States train together for this elite mission. Soldiers will learn basic language terminology and some cultural sensitivities that will be important for the mission.

"I have been in the military for 25 years and I want to implement what I have learned to go to war," said Lt. Colonel Robert Pernell. "My family has known since I have joined that deploying was a possibility. The



Col. Mark A. Russo, 169th Leadership Regiment, discusses the upcoming Afghanistan deployment. Russo is the commander of Task Force Phoenix, which will be comprised of volunteers from many states with a mission to assist the Afghan Army. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds, 130th PAD)

timing of this mission is perfect. If the mission were in Iraq or Bosnia, I would have volunteered for that as well."

Many of the Soldiers haven't told their families yet about their volunteering for the mission.

"We would be the embedded team training with the Afghanistan army. I wanted to do something for my country. I'm a single parent. I want to make sure I am picked first before I tell my family," said one Soldier.



Maj. Jonathan Graham of Joint Forces Headquarters prepares his body for combat with a vaccination from Sgt. John Stone. Graham is one of 40 volunteers for an Afghanistan deployment. With only 16 available slots, competition is high. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds, 130th PAD)

Connecticut's 'Top Dog'

Pfc. KRISTIN A. ALDO
130TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

When a Soldier thinks of the term “battle buddy” he usually thinks of the Soldier standing next to him in formation, but what if the Soldier next to him had a tail and four legs?

For dog handlers this isn't unusual. In fact, it's a way of life.

Sgt. Courtney Robbins, is the second military working dog handler in the history of the National Guard, and she's set quite a high standard for Soldiers who will follow in her footsteps.

After going through the National K-9 Learning Center in Columbus, Ohio, to become a civilian dog trainer, Robbins joined the Connecticut National Guard as an MP. She enlisted knowing that the possibility existed that a military working dog unit would be created in Connecticut.

“I knew it was going to come up in the future and I've been interested ever since,” said Robbins.

The 11th Military Working Dog Detachment was created between May 2005 and January 2006, shortly after construction began in Newtown to convert an old piggery into a facility to train military working dogs. When the unit finally established itself,

Robbins left for the 12-week training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The training consisted of a variety of different courses from learning facing movements with a dog, to detecting explosives or narcotics with a dog.

With some help from her civilian dog-training background, Robbins successfully completed the course and received “Top Dog” and Distinguished Honor Graduate of her class.

Content with knowledge from the training, Robbins was confident that she would be able to go home and share what she had been taught with the rest of her unit.

While most Soldiers report to their assigned units after training to do their job, it's a bit more complicated for Soldiers of the 11th MWD Detachment because the unit is one of the first three military working dog units in Connecticut, said Robbins.

The building for the 11th to train dogs in Newtown is now finished, but some minor readjustments must be made before the building can be certified so that the unit will be able to receive dogs, said Robbins.

“We're scheduled to receive the dogs in March,” said a hopeful and anxious Robbins.

“In the meantime we're basically doing everything we can to prepare for them such

as strengthening the unit, seeing that it's the first of its kind in Connecticut,” said Robbins, who was named team leader of the 11th.

Once the dogs arrive it will take at least three months to train them, but that's something Robbins is used to considering that she has two Australian Shepherds at home that she trained herself.

Robbins also plans to soon be the owner of Wagging Tails Dog Center in her hometown, Norwich, where she used to work as a civilian before becoming active guard in the military.

As if she didn't have enough on her plate, the first thing that Robbins looks forward to after receiving her own military working dog is deploying.

“It's what I plan for, as soon as I get the dog and get certified. We're training for a reason, and when we get deployed, we'll be doing the work we're supposed to do,” said Robbins.

If there's one thing she can't stress enough, Robbins makes it a point to talk about the demands of a military working dog trainer.

“If you're not 100-percent into the military, and if you're not 100-percent into



Sgt. Courtney Robbins, 11th Military Working Dog Detachment, stands outside the kennels of the new working dog facility, Newtown. Robbins is the second military dog handler in the history of the National Guard. (Photo by Pfc. Sarah Cummings, 130th PAD)

the dogs, then it's not for you. All your time is going to be here, with your dog. You have to be dedicated, so that your dog will trust you and you will trust your dog,” said Robbins.



Sgt. Courtney Robbins of the 11th Military Working Dog unit takes a breather with her training dog at Lackland Air Force Base. Robbins completed the course as the “Top Dog” and Honor Graduate. She is only the second National Guardsman to have completed the training. (Connecticut Guardian file photo)

Connecticut Combat Marksmanship Team places well at Regional Combat Matches

Heads off to represent state in Little Rock, Arkansas

MAJ. JAMES H. McLEAN
JFH-SATT, CTARNG AND
1ST LT. SAM ABBE
103 ACS, CTANG

Connecticut Army National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters SATT (Small Arms Training Team) members Maj. James H. McLean, Sgt. 1st Class Greg Tomsen, Staff Sgt. Paul Ladd, Staff Sgt. Sheila Thompson, and Staff Sgt. Carl Bourne, and 1st Lt. Abbe, 103 Air Control Squadron, CTANG joined top shooters from around the country and as far away as Australia to determine the top shooters.

The team competed at the U.S. National Matches held annually at Camp Perry, in Port Clinton, Ohio against teams from the Army, Marines, and Guard as well as the top civilian shooters from around the country.

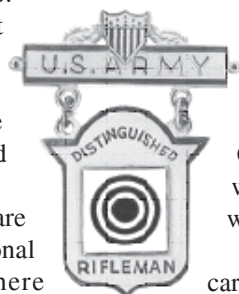
The two premier rifle matches are the Presidents Match and National Trophy Individual Match where shooters use the M16 or AR15 at ranges from 200 to 600 yards firing from the standing, sitting, and prone positions.

This year nearly 1300 people competed in each of these matches. The top 100 marksmen in the President's Match each year earn the title President's Hundred, receive a letter from President George W. Bush; Army members are additionally authorized to wear the Presidents Hundred shoulder tab.

The SATT members arrived at Camp Perry

early to attend the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) and participate in the M16 Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) Match. With temperatures up to 104 degrees and high crosswinds the President's Match and National Trophy Individual Match proved to be very challenging.

Former team member, Pfc. John Cogshall, 102nd Infantry (currently serving as a designated marksman in Iraq) has previously earned the title of President's Hundred by placing in the top 100 shooters in the country. This year his sister Amanda Cogshall made the cut and received the badge.



Abbe stayed at the National Matches a few extra days to compete in the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) Games where shooters compete with antique military service weapons.

He earned a gold medal in the M1 carbine match and a bronze medal in the M1 Garand match. The M1 carbine and M1 Garand were military service rifles used during World War II and the Korean War.

For four days in September National Guard and Reserve competitors representing the best shooters from the Marksmanship Advisory Council (MAC) Region -1 States came together to compete at Fort Devens, Mass. for the 2006 Commander's Warrior Challenge and MAC 1 Regional Match.

Competitors are divided into novice (1st year), open, and professional (members of national teams) classes.

The CTARNG team was composed of Lt. Col. Eric Mullai, McLean, Tomsen, Ladd, Thompson, and Bourne. The CTANG team was composed of Abbe and Sr. Airman Schmied.

- Mullai placed 2nd in Combat Rifle Excellence In Competition (EIC) Match

- Abbe placed 6th in Combat Service Pistol, 9th in Rifle Rundown, 8th in Rifle Aggregate, 5th in Precision Rifle, and 7th in the Combined Aggregate.

- Tomsen placed 2nd in Rifle Rundown and 3rd in Rifle Close Quarter Battle.

- Ladd placed 1st in Rifle Rundown, 1st in Combat Service Pistol and in the top 10 percent of the Combat Rifle EIC earning him 6 of the 30 points required towards the gold excellence in competition badge and title of Distinguished Rifleman.

- Thompson placed 7th in Combat Pistol EIC.

- Bourne placed 6th in Rifle Rundown and 10th in Rifle Close Quarter Battle

Ladd had to leave the Commander's Warrior Challenge early to travel to Little Rock, AR for the National Guard Combat Rifle Team try-outs.

The Distinguished Rifleman Badge, established in 1887, and the Distinguished

Pistol Shot Badge, established 1903, can only be earned by placing in the top 10 percent of a regional or national EIC (Excellence-In-Competition)

match. Six, eight, or ten

"LEG" points are awarded, depending on placement. Upon earning points the

shooter earns the bronze badge, after earning 20 points the shooter earns the silver badge, and at 30 points the shooter earns the gold badge and the title of distinguished expert. Each badge is engraved with the shooter's name and until recently were made of solid gold.

As any of the novice shooters at the Commander's Warrior Challenge can attest, DISTINGUISHED RIFLEMAN is a completely new level.

In November a team consisting of Mullai, McLean, Tomsen, Ladd, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Chan, Thompson, and Bourne will travel to the Winston P. Wilson Matches at Camp Robinson, Little Rock, AR representing the Connecticut Marksmanship Training Unit.

ANG members interested in the marksmanship team should contact Abbe, 103 ACS, samuel.abbe@ctbrad.ang.af.mil or Senior Master Sgt. Brian Roy, 103 FW, brian.roy@ctbrad.ang.af.mil. ARNG members should contact McLean jim.mclean@us.army.mil or Ladd paul.a.ladd@dhs.gov.



COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

Here is a current directory of area commissaries and exchanges along with their phone numbers. Always call ahead to verify hours as they may change without notice. A valid i.d. card is necessary to use these facilities. Contact your unit administrator if you or your dependants need a card. If you have trouble, contact the State Family Program Office at 1-800-858-2677.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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SUNDAY: 10:00 – 5:00

Guard celebrates 370 years – or 18 generations of lifers

TECH. SGT. MIKE R. SMITH
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

ARLINGTON, Va. – What is a few years younger than the Mayflower Compact (1620); a lot older than the Declaration of Independence (1776) and U.S. Constitution (1787); predates the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps by 139 years; and is 311 years older than the Air Force?

Answer: The National Guard.

Known originally as the militia, the National Guard turns 370 years young Dec. 13.

It all started in 1636 when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which functioned as the colony's legislature, ordered existing militia companies from the towns surrounding Boston to form into three regiments: North, South and East.

While other English colonies like Virginia and Spanish colonies like Florida and Puerto Rico had individual towns with militia companies before 1636, Massachusetts was the first place in the New World where the population was large enough to justify organizing companies into regiments for command and control. These regiments

became a kind of military "family" for members. Although their names have been changed and individual companies have come and gone, the three regiments still exist in the Massachusetts National Guard.

In retrospect, a string of 20-year career enlistments divides the Guard's life span into more than 18 "generations." The differences between generation one and 18 are countless. Yet, even as the National Guard has transformed many times, it remains in line with its first role as the citizens' Army; and, for the last three generations, the citizens' Air Force.

The American colonies adopted the English militia system, which obligated all males to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community. This early militia enforced local laws and battled Britain's enemies in America. Now, a force of more than 450,000 men and women serve voluntarily and can be deployed anywhere in the world.

The continued existence of the colonial militia was ratified by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution. Since then, Congress

has enacted several militia and defense acts to strengthen the National Guard. The first of these laws, passed in 1792, governed the militia for the first 111 years of the country's existence.

The Militia Act of 1903 created the modern National Guard and affirmed the National Guard as the nation's primary organized reserve force. The National Defense Act of 1947 established the Air National Guard under the National Guard Bureau.

In 370 years and more than eighteen 20-year enlistments, the weapons and technology have changed drastically, but the Guard's contribution to the nation's defense has remained paramount.

Generation seven rallied to battle the British at Lexington and Concord. Generation 11 faced off, brother against brother, in the Civil War. Generation 13 "Remembered the Maine" during the Spanish-American War. Generation 15 was already on duty when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Generation 18 will never forget and is still responding to 9/11.

In 1636, the militia's primary firearm was the crude matchlock musket which could take 56 steps to load and fire. Nearly one-third of militia Soldiers carried only a long pole, or pike, into combat. Today, the Guard's small-arms arsenal includes M-16 and M-4 rifles, and the Squad Automatic Weapon which fires of 750 rounds per minute.

Our colonial ancestors could not have imagined much of what their descendants can use in combat today – jet fighters, tanks, satellite radios, laser-guided munitions, global positioning systems, rocket artillery, and countless other high-tech devices.

Now, after 370 years, what does the future hold for this always ready and reliable force?

Future National Guard generations will continue to employ all of the modern technology at its disposal at home and abroad. At the core, however, today's National Guard members and yesterday's Minutemen remain the same person: citizens with the conviction that their military service is required to make their communities a safer and better place.



First Muster (National Guard Heritage Series)



Taku Gar (National Guard Heritage Series)



Remembering Pearl Harbor

Reeves only Connecticut resident to receive MOH for actions at Pearl

Thomas James Reeves, born in Thomaston, Connecticut, Dec. 9, 1895, was a US Navy radioman who became the namesake of the destroyer escort USS Reeves. Reeves was killed during the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Reeves was the only Connecticut resident to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions taken at Pearl Harbor.

He enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve as Electrician third class on 20 July 1917. Released from duty 21 July 1919, he was recalled to active duty and was transferred to the regular Navy 16 April 1920 and served until discharged 21 August 1921. On 12 October 1921 he re-enlisted in the Navy making it his career.

Advanced through the rates to chief radioman, Reeves was serving in the battleship *California* (BB-44) when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941. During that attack the mechanized ammunition hoists in the battleship were put out of commission. Reeves "... on his own initiative, in a burning passageway, assisted in the maintenance of an ammunition supply by hand to the antiaircraft guns until he was overcome by smoke and fire which resulted in his death." For his distinguished conduct, RMC Reeves was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

In 1943, the destroyer escort USS Reeves (DE-156) was named in his honor.



Thomas James Reeves
9 December 1895 – 7 December 1941

Happy Holidays
from the staffs of

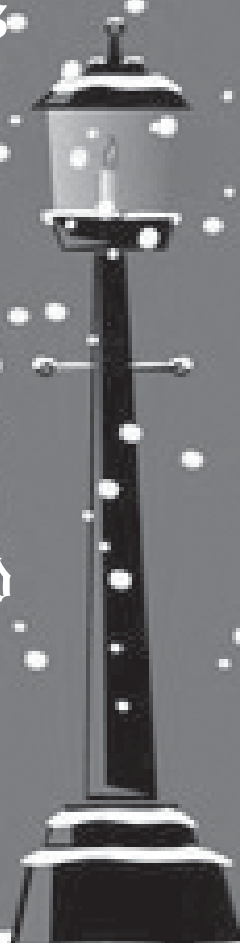
The Connecticut
Guardian

I * E * A * D Magazine

Our Connecticut Guard

and the

Public Affairs Office



CONNECTICUT
MILITARY DEPARTMENT



Energy News – October 2006

A LOOK BEHIND:

- Completed all steam trap replacements at Rockville and Putnam. (The Federal Energy Management Program estimates that worn steam traps waste 20% of our energy. *Ouch!*)
- Completed Rockville pipe insulation. Nice job Moe! No greasy hand prints on the white insulation.

A LOOK AHEAD:

- More new steam traps for Westbrook (almost done) and CSMS.
- Insulating pipes at other sites. *This can save 10-20% on fuel consumption leading to monetary savings which can be used to buy more holiday fruitcake (I'll pass on that).*
- Converting old inefficient high bay lighting fixtures to high bay T5. OMS 8A estimated to begin first half of November.
- Converting light switches to occupancy sensing switches. Switches ordered for Branford, Rockville and Westbrook armories. *Even if it is only 10% savings, better the \$\$ goes to YOU not UI.*



WHAT IS A DEGREE DAY AND WHY DO I CARE?

A degree day gauges the amount of heating or cooling needed for a building using 65 degrees as a baseline. To compute heating/cooling degree-days, take the average temperature for a day and subtract the reference temperature of 65 degrees. If the difference is positive, it is called a "Cooling Degree Days" (CDD). If the difference is negative, it is called a "Heating Degree Days" (HDD). The magnitude of the difference is the number of days. For example, if your average temperature is 50 degrees for a day in September, the difference of the average temperature for that day and the reference temperature of 65 degrees would yield a minus 15. Therefore, you know that you are going to have HDDs that day. Since the magnitude of the difference is 15, you have 15 HDDs.

You compare Degree Days to the same time a month or year ago to estimate what the future temperature trend might be. For example, if the last month had more HDDs than the same period last year you might want to split some more wood, check your oil tank, pull out your sweaters AND check your wallet. Increased Degree Days take away our money. We can't control the weather but we can lessen the financial shock with some knowledge and planning.

Jim Thomson
CFMO Energy Manager
Tel: (860) 548-3237 Cell: (860) 883-4532
Jim.s.thomson@us.army.mil

Connecticut Military Department News

Governor's Foot Guard seeks recruits

The 2nd Company of the Governor's Foot Guard (GFG), one of the oldest continuously active militia units in the United States, is seeking new recruits. Mostly New Haven businessmen who had served in the Revolutionary War organized the unit in New Haven on December 18, 1774. The 2nd Company remains active in New Haven today and during this past December, the members celebrated their 230th anniversary.

Interested men and women applicants, who are 21 years of age or older, are eligible to join this prestigious unit. Candidates do not need any prior military experience to join this volunteer organization, which is one of four state militia units in Connecticut. New members will be trained in all required military drill and ceremonies, plus instructed in wearing of the uniform and other requirements. All uniforms and equipment will be issued to each new recruit, with the exception of a few personal, clothing items.

The unit meets each Monday evening at the Goffe Street Armory in New Haven, for drill practice, monthly company meetings and various classes in military training. The unit also participates in parades and other ceremonial events all over the state and serves as a personal honor guard to the Governor at official state functions. In addition, the unit participates in out of state and out of country events, where the unit represents Connecticut and the United States. The unit also has a very active color guard unit, which is

made up of volunteers, who make appearances as the ceremonial flag unit, at numerous civic events throughout the year.

Any person interested in learning more about joining this unit may contact Sgt. Donald Rosadini by phone on (203) 269-5858, or by E-mail at, drosadini@protonix.us.

Current members of the National Guard and Reserve are prohibited by Federal law from joining as regular members, but may join as Associate Members and participate to the extent that it does not interfere with their National Guard or Reserve duties.



Major Commandant Peter Jenkin leads the members of the 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard, at the commencement of a recent parade.

2nd Co. Governor's Foot Guard in New Hampshire

New Haven's 2nd Co. Governor's Foot Guard provided the Color Guard and Field Music for the annual meeting of the Centennial Legion of Historic Military Commands on Nov. 4, 2006. A parade and rededication of monuments to veterans of past conflicts was held, and units from the 13 original colonies participated. The events were hosted by the New Hampshire Governor's Horse Guard, who provided the firing party for the ceremonies honoring veterans. Those elected from Connecticut at the annual business meeting were:



Lt. Col. Peter Wasilewski, 2 GFG, 3rd Vice Commander

Capt. Anthony Baylow, 2 GFG, CT State Director

Capt. Francis Erff, Capt. Albert Edwards, 2 GFG, Directors at Large

Appointed to serve a second year as Adjutant was Capt. Alice Cronin, 2 GFG.

Among the units parading were elements of the Washington Light Infantry and the Sumter Guards, both of which traveled from Charleston, SC to take part. (Photo courtesy 2nd Co., Governor's Foot Guard)

In Memorium

Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Thomas Howe

Thomas "Tommy" Edward Howe, 76, of South Windsor passed away November 24, 2006 surrounded by his loving family and friends after a valiant battle with cancer. Tommy died as he lived his life, simply and with dignity.

He cared for many and lived life to the fullest enjoying both the practical joke and a twirl about the dance floor.

Tommy was born November 5, 1930 in Hartford, son of the late Patrick and Mary Howe.

His 61 years of service to Connecticut began on May 16, 1945 when he enlisted into Company D 1st Battalion of the Connecticut State Guard. His career in the Connecticut Army National Guard began on August 8, 1946 with Service Company 169th Infantry Regiment. Called to Active Duty in August, 1950, SGM Howe underwent Ranger and Airborne training at FT Benning and then was assigned to Germany as part of the Occupation Force during the Korean War.

He returned to the States in June of 1952 and reenlisted into Battery B 745th AAA Bn. He was transferred to Service Company 169th Infantry and promoted to 1st Sergeant until transfer to Company A 243rd Signal Battalion in May 1959. He next served with HHC 1st BG 169th Inf then transferred to HHC 43d CMD Hq Div where he served till August 1967. Assigned to HHC 103d EOH, he served as First Sergeant and Operations Sergeant until April 1972.

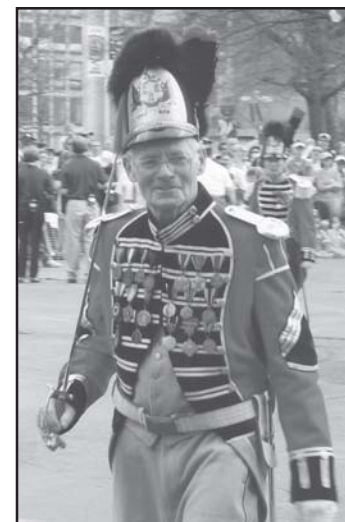
SGM Howe was assigned to the Full Time Recruiting Force in April 1972 as one of its "founding fathers" and served in varied assignments within that force. He was promoted to Sergeant Major in June 1979.

Upon retirement in 1990, he continued his military service by joining the First Company Governor's Foot Guard where at his passing he held the rank of Command Sergeant Major.

Military service truly represented Tommy's life's work and was a significant source of the many friends and comrades he enjoyed.

Throughout Tommy's career he received many Accolades, Awards and Decorations too numerous to mention. Tommy will be missed by the many clubs and organizations to which he belonged or donated his time and skills (carpentry was a passion in his civilian life).

Tommy is survived by his wife of 49 years, Barbara and their three loving children, Tracie Lynn Vicki of Bloomfield, Mary "Beth" Howe of South Windsor and Thomas Joseph "TJ" Howe and his wife Carrie-Anne of Enfield, and the apple of his eye and Grandson Andrew Thomas Vicki, two brothers, John and Raymond Howe both of Florida, two sisters, Mary Terry of Hartford and Helen Lauzier of South Windsor, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Tommy was predeceased by his son Thomas John Howe and his sister Eilene Howe. Tommy is also survived by his "side kick", a Shetland Sheepdog also named Tommy after him.



GRAP for Retirees !!

GRAP is not just for current members of the National Guard anymore! If you are a military retiree, you too can earn \$2000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training.

Go online and sign up today!
www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com

NATIONAL GUARD 
 RECRUITING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Team Connecticut stands-up new e

MAJ. GEORGE H. WORRALL III
103RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

A joint team of Connecticut National Guard members trained with Connecticut's new emergency communications system during a three-day training exercise Oct. 10-12 at Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut.

The training exercise tested skill with the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability – JISCC - System, an integrated communications package that provides local, state and federal emergency responders the capability to communicate when responding to large-scale incidents.

"It [JISCC] is supposed to make sure a governor can talk to a mayor and coordinate with all their responders," said Maj. John M. Warren, commander, 103rd Communications Flight, Connecticut Air National Guard explaining the system's purpose.

"So it enhances our [CTNG's] ability to what we can provide in the event of emergencies."

The joint Connecticut Guard team tapped experience from across the



Connecticut National Guardsmen work together, to erect an antenna during a training exercise on the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) System on October 12, 2006. JISCC is an integrated communications package that provides emergency responders a central location to converse on state and local incidents. The training is a three day exercise at Bradley Air National Guard Base, made up of Army and Air National Guardsmen from within the State of Connecticut. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau)



Left to Right – Tech. Sgt. Mark J. Cote and Master Sgt. Jason L. Whelan, 103d Communications Flight, assemble an antenna during a training exercise on the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) System. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau)



Master Sgt. Brian D. Talbot, 103d Air Control Squadron, works on equipment during a training exercise on the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) System. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau)

emergency communication system

communications capable units.

“It really is a purple team with nine Air [National Guard] and seven Army [CTARNG] members from the J5 and J6, Air Control Squadron and Fighter Wing,” said Warren.

JISCC systems are on track for fielding in most states and have already been used for support.

“It was one of the first systems used after [Hurricane] Katrina and during a West Virginia coal mine accident,” said Warren. “I understand it [the JISCC support] went well although there is always learning and opportunities to improve.”

The performance of the JISCC system team during the first training exercise in Connecticut is already setting milestones.

“Team Connecticut had a great initial week of training to include the new National Record for JISCC set-up and initialization (47 minutes),” said Warren explaining success in the final exam which tested the teams ability to bring circuits-up and communications on-line.

“All involved worked hard and have a basic understanding of the deployment and operation of the JISCC.”



Master Sgt. Jason L. Whelan, 103d Communications Flight, assembles an antenna during a training exercise on the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) System. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau)



..., unwinds cable from the auto-acquire system communications Capability (JISCC) System. (U.S.



Left to Right – Tech. Sergeants Mark J. Cote and Eric W. Dunn, 103d Communications Flight, Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, discuss the assembly of an antenna during a training exercise on the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) System on October 10, 2006. JISCC is an integrated communications package that provides emergency responders a central location to converse on state and local incidents. The training is a three day exercise at Bradley Air National Guard Base, made up of Army and Air National Guardsmen from within the State of Connecticut. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau)

Recruiting & Retention: Mission One

G-RAP participation pays OFF for new Airman

1ST LT. JEFFERSON S. HEILAND
DEPUTY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
103RD FIGHTER WING

The first Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) reward payment to a 103rd Fighter Wing Recruiting Assistant (RA) was presented to a member of the 103rd's Student Flight here July 8, 2006.

Airman 1st Class Ashley Nieves, 103rd Student Flight, took advantage of the opportunity to earn some extra cash by introducing a potential recruit to the base recruiting office.

"It was pretty easy to sign up for and everything," Nieves said. "And it felt great [to get that check]," she said.

Recently, there has been much talk about G-RAP.

G-RAP is a contracted program designed to reward traditional guardsmen for introducing well-qualified men and women to the recruiting office.

The first of several simple steps is to sign up as a RA at

www.guardrecruitingassistant.com.

The Web site includes all pertinent information and requirements of the program.

In November, the 103rd Fighter Wing earned the number one spot in the nation, as compared to the 88 other Air National

Guard units, for having the greatest number of service members signed up as RA's. The members of the 103rd are excelling at the first step, but now must press forward.

As an RA, members are eligible to receive a \$2,000 payment for each recruit that they bring in who subsequently enlists and reports to basic training, or for each prior-service troop who has affiliated with a unit for three months and attends three Unit Training Assemblies.

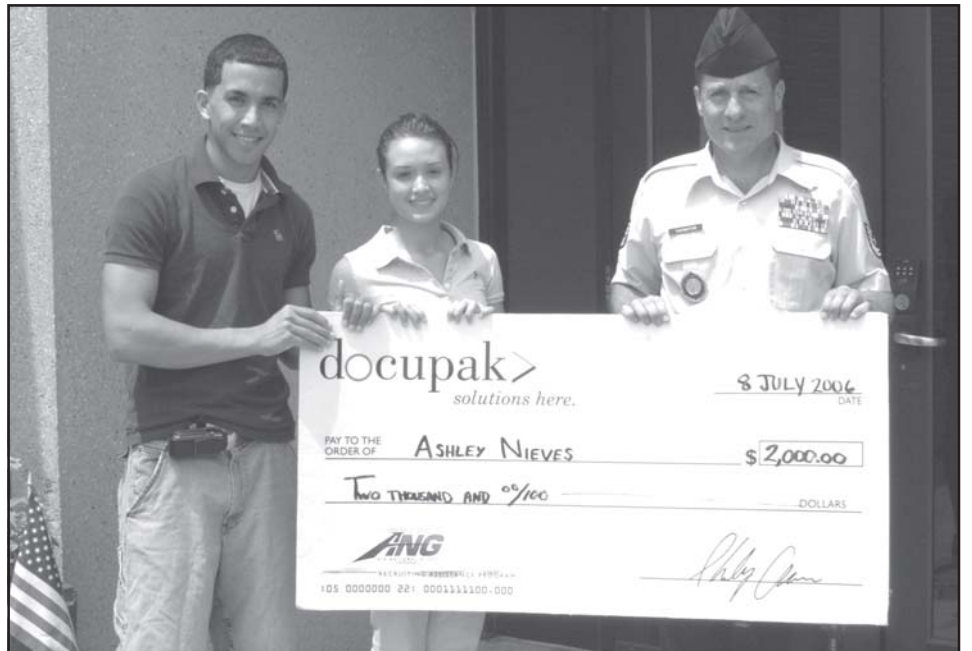
Just as each service member is unique, each RA has their own recruiting field to harvest. Professional acquaintances, as well as casual social contacts and family members, can make perfect recruits.

For those RA's who are unsure of where to begin, experts have provided some advice.

A traditional high school diploma is the single best indicator of a recruit's stick-to-it-iveness, according to Bill Carr, the acting deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy.

Additionally, recruits with a high school diploma have a 70 percent probability of completing their enlistment versus a 50 percent chance for non-graduates, according to Carr.

The 103rd Fighter Wing's five recruiters



Master Sergeant Philip Vasington (right), a recruiter with the 103rd Mission Support Flight, presents a check in the amount of \$2000 dollars on July 8, 2006 to Airman 1st Class Ashley Nieves (center), 103rd Student Flight, for her recruitment of Justin Toro (left) from Bethel, Connecticut while participating in the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-Rap). (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt Nicholas A. McCorkle)

visit local schools an average of 10 to 15 times every week, according to the base recruiting office supervisor.

"School visits are definitely the best way for us to make good contacts," said Master Sgt. Ivan D. Anglero, recruiting office supervisor, 103rd Mission Support Flight.

Anglero also emphasized the opportunities for unit members to assist recruiters by

accompanying them on a visit to the member's own alma mater.

Once a member is officially an RA, he or she can simply contact the base recruiting office at (800) 992-4793 and provide them with the recruit's contact information and then enter the information at www.guardrecruitingassistant.com.

Trainees recognized for success

STAFF SGT. PABLO RAVIZZOLI
R&R

The Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) is designed to increase the percentage of trainees who succeed in their initial entry training.

It introduces new recruits to military life. They prepare physically and mentally for the challenges of Basic Training and beyond.

Like a normal unit, the RSP recognizes Soldiers for their hard work, dedication and performance while down range at their training site.

For the month of October, three Soldiers were recognized during the Battle Hand Off ceremony. Pfc. Brian Azevedo, Pfc. Federico Crocitta and Pfc. Pedro Rosado.

These Soldiers were overachievers while at training and earned recognition as Distinguished Honor Graduates at Advanced Individual Training. For their achievements, motivation and dedication, they were awarded the Army Achievement Medal.

Similarly, for the month of November, four Soldiers were awarded the Army Achievement Medal for earning the title of

Distinguished Honor Graduate at their respective schools. Pvt. Nicholas Ciullo, Pvt. Serina Carter, Pfc. Douglas Jackson and Pvt. Thomas Lopardo were recognized. Ciullo and Lopardo were also awarded the Physical Fitness Badge while down at school for scoring higher than 90 percent in all three events of the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT).

These Soldiers came home from training proud to have represented their units and the Connecticut Guard with their outstanding performance. Their first drill back was their last with the RSP. There, they are reintroduced to the chain of command of the unit they will begin drilling with. A commander or representative greets them there and "patches" their left sleeve with the symbol of their unit. At the end of the ceremony, the Soldiers are considered fully trained and prepared to succeed at their unit of assignment.

Azevedo, Crocitta, Rosado, Ciullo, Carter, Jackson and Lopardo are exemplary Soldiers who have proven that their efforts while in the RSP and down range at training have paid off and put them on a path to success in the Connecticut Guard.

Take your career to a higher skill level,
Enjoy the many benefits, become a

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You need:

- Rank of SGT or higher
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For more info, contact WO1 Voity at:
frank.voity@us.army.mil
860.691.4243

Becoming U.S. citizens while serving their new country half a world away

SGT. CHRISTOPHER CLARK
HHC 1/102ND INF.
BATTALION PARALEGAL

Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan – On November 11, 2006, Veterans Day, 61 Soldiers from various Units and Battalions from around the United States who are serving their country in Operation Enduring Freedom gathered together in the Bagram Air Field Chapel for a Naturalization Ceremony to become U.S. Citizens.

Among the 61 soldiers, there were nine from Connecticut's own 1-102nd Infantry Battalion.

I had the privilege of witnessing the ceremony and watching these outstanding soldiers swear in with the Oath of Allegiance and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

While these 61 soldiers were saying the Pledge of Allegiance in unison I was looking around to see their reactions and what I saw was a lot of smiles and in a few of the faces I saw tears. The tears were probably helped on by Ms. Pamela Hutchings, who is part of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. While she was giving her speech she started to tear up herself, not to mention the song "Proud to be an American" was played and I know most or all of you reading this know what a tear jerker that song can be.

Before Ms. Pamela Hutchings gave her speech, Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Eilmes and Maj. Gen. I Freakley gave one of their own.

Eilmes briefly spoke of his military career but talked more about his heritage and how his parents were immigrants to the United States as well as his wife. He also spoke about how he was not new to the immigration process, that it took patience and time to become a U.S. citizen but was well worth the effort.

The gunnery sergeant talked about the Executive Order signed by President George W. Bush on July 3, 2002 which lets Soldiers apply for citizenship without the filing fees and waives the normal residency requirements for Naturalization during specified periods of military hostilities. This Executive Order expedites the citizen packets

in a fast manner and the applicant is usually sworn in as a U.S. Citizen before his or her deployment is over. From what the gunnery sergeant said, there have been more than 20,000 Soldiers sworn in as citizens since the War on Terrorism, began but that didn't include the 82 Soldiers sworn in this year alone here on Bagram.

Freakley, who is the Commanding General of operations here in Afghanistan spoke to the Soldiers and said that he was proud to be a part of the ceremony and that he knew that each and every Soldier that was swearing in would never take their citizenship for granted, that they worked hard and sacrificed a lot to become a citizen.

He told them that every November 11th they had two major events to celebrate – Veterans Day and the day that they became citizens.

Freakley spoke of how the United States was founded on immigration and that people moved to the U.S. for freedoms they did not have in their own countries, the freedom of Religion and the Pursuit of Happiness are the two that Freakley brought up, which made me think of how the rest of us who are born in America usually take our freedoms for granted while others are traveling across the globe to enjoy those rights without fear of punishment.

I had the privilege of helping a few of these Soldiers out with their citizenship packets and with any lengthy application process there is always a misplaced document or some form of correction that needs to be taken care of. Being the Battalion Paralegal it was my job to help these Soldiers out and point them in the right direction. When one of the Soldiers would come to me with a problem, I could see it in their face and always in their voice of how frustrated they were and I would drop what I was doing to help them out. I really wanted to see them become citizens because I knew how important it was to them and I feel that if they are fighting for our country and possibly giving their lives for our freedoms, then they deserve to be U.S. citizens without being caught up in the immigration process.



The 61 Soldiers who swore in as U.S. citizens come from different parts of the world originating from Jamaica, Poland, Cambodia, Venezuela, South Korea, Nicaragua, and India. The following Soldiers from the 1-102nd Infantry, I am proud to say, who are now U.S. citizens are: Staff Sgt. Veasna Roeun (Cambodia), Staff Sgt. Paul N. Bennett (Jamaica), Sgt. Patrick J. Montes (Nicaragua), Sgt. Pawel J. Przeszlowski (Poland), Spc. Richie E. Johnson (Jamaica), Spc. Paul A. Molina (Venezuela), Spc. Jihyun Park (South Korea), Spc. Clifroy L. Henry (Jamaica), and Sgt. Manraj Singh (India). (Photo by First Sgt. Edward J. Masotta Jr).

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The Officers Club of Connecticut

wishes all its members and the Soldiers and Airmen

of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard

and their families a Joyous and Happy Holiday

and a Happy and Healthy New Year



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Connecticut Guardian
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www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Military Matters

Fewer, more predictable deployments coming, Pace tells Guardsmen

DONNA MILES
AMERICAN
FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14, 2006—Changes being made in the way the force is structured, trains and deploys ultimately will mean fewer deployments and more predictability for individual troops, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told National Guardsmen today during a town hall meeting here.

Marine Gen. Peter Pace told about 500 National Guard troops wrapping up a year-long deployment with Kosovo Force 7 the most important thing the military can offer them is a basic idea of when and how frequently they'll be called up for duty.

Questions from the group focused on the frequency and length of National Guard deployments, as well as train-up time between mobilization and deployment.

This pre-deployment training typically brings Guardsmen's full active-duty time to 18 to 24 months. Pace said the benchmark he'd like to see on the active force is a one-year deployment, followed by two years at home station before deploying again.

For Guardsmen and reservists, the ideal would be five years at home between one-year deployments, he said. Efforts under way are helping make this goal achievable, Pace said. The Army is building its active brigade

combat teams from 33 to 42, and now has 36, he noted.

At the same time, the National Guard is reducing from 34 brigades that weren't totally manned or equipped to 28 brigades that will be, he said. These initiatives will provide 18 to 19 Army brigades, as well as one or two Marine regimental combat brigades, ready to deploy at any given time.

Pace said this would ensure "a sustainable tempo" for troops that matches his deployment benchmarks. The problem for now, he said, is that current operations require 25 brigade-size units at a time. That demand will require more frequent deployments until the force restructure is completed, he said.

Another problem is that many Guardsmen and reservists needed for these rotations already volunteered for deployments in the early days of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Deploying volunteers as individuals, rather than calling entire units to duty involuntarily, "made really good sense — until Iraq came along," he said. "And then we needed units in Iraq."

Many troops in those units already had served voluntary deployments in Afghanistan, so they weren't required to deploy again.

That left holes in their units that had to be

filled by pulling troops from other units, he said, solving the short-term problem but exacerbating the long-term one.

"We're up now, after doing this for four or five years, to having some units having to pull from seven, eight or nine different units to kludge together the unit you need," Pace said. "We need to stop that. And we need to stop it on a predictable basis."

Pace said the best way to do that is to "reset the clock and do it properly."

Every Guardsman and reservist would be told "where you are in your cycle - when you are going to be eligible to go for one year and when you're not going to be eligible for the next five years," he said.

The cycle would continue, regardless of whether a deployment-eligible troop actually deployed.

"And we'll just keep the cycle going so that trainers, recruiters, everybody in the unit understands when you are eligible to go and when you're not," he said. This predictable timeline will help Guardsmen and reservists tailor their time between deployments to hone skills they will need for their next deployment, the chairman said.

In doing so, he said, they can reduce the training they need after they're mobilized

for that deployment and speed up the timetable, he said.

"Nirvana for me would be that you have four to six weeks of active duty at home before you went, because you would have already been trained up well enough and all you'd have to do is get out and do your final touches before you fought," he said. This would be a win-win situation, the chairman said.

"If we need you quickly for something, you'll be available more quickly," he said. And troops will have the advance notice they deserve to plan, prepare and plan for a deployment.

Pace emphasized that while this formula would work well for routine missions that can be planned ahead, it won't necessarily work in cases "where something strange happens in the world and we need more troops."

When that happens, "we just fight the nation's battles," he said.

"But we can give you a predictability of when your unit would be subject to mobilization and activation."

And then, if the nation needs more than 20 brigades at a time, we would have to dip into the rest of the pool."


OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT
Hartford Armory, CT (860) 249-3634

❄️

December 2006


❄️

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Afternoon at Bushnell "Chicago" Jan 13th, 2007 Call Ginny 282-0778 Having a Party Call us 249-3634					1	2 NATIONAL GUARD DRILL
3 NATIONAL GUARD DRILL Holiday Party	4	5	6 Governors Military Staff Holiday Dinner	7 1-2:30 pm Saint Emanuel Lutheran Church Luncheon Breakfast CCM Quarette	8 12 N Lunch Dept Consumer Protect (Club Closed for Lunch) 6:00 PM O'Club Holiday Party	9
10 3:00 pm St Peters Church Christmas Party	11	12 Bkfst: Senate Dems 5 PM DMR Holiday Party	13 6:00PM Democratic Chairs Holiday Party	14 7 PM Navy Reserve Holiday Party 12 N MOAA Lunch	15 Hanukkah Begins at Sundown	16 Hanukkah
17	18	19 12 Noon Ladies O'Club Lunch	20 Lunch Ray Lavoie	21 12 N Lunch Merilee 5:30 Board of Governors MTG	22	23
24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS Club Closed	26	27	28	29	30
31 HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL	O'Club Open for lunch Daily 11:30 - 2 PM Bar & Lounge Open at Lunch and 4 PM - Closing.					



The First Company
Governor's Horse Guards

is recruiting for the Spring 2007 Recruit Class



Retired and former Army/Air Guard members are specially invited to apply to become a part of the Governor's Horse Guards. We are the Nation's oldest cavalry unit in continuous service. With the help of new volunteers, we maintain a proud tradition of 229 years of service to the people and State of Connecticut.


No prior riding experience is required, just an enjoyment of physical activity and a willingness to serve. Troop activities include parades and Honor Guards, horse care, and community service such as our own "Say Nay to Drugs" program, and participation in missions supporting the Capital Region Emergency Planning Committee.

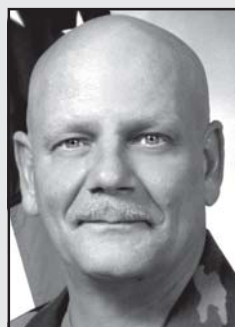
Visit our unit during weekly drill any Thursday between 1900 and 2100 hours and see first-hand how we preserve the traditions of the U.S. Cavalry! We gladly accept civilians, so bring an interested friend.

More details, including frequently asked questions, can be found at our web site: www.govhorseguards.org - click on "Join Up?."

For additional information contact:

1LT Steve Ardussi
Troop Adjutant and Recruiting Officer
Email: sardussi@optonline.net
Phone: 860-567-5534





COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
RAYMOND P. ZASTAURY

Visiting, remembering our troops

During the month of October Maj. Gen Thad Martin and I had the opportunity to visit with the "Warriors" of the 1/102nd Infantry in Afghanistan. It was an honor to witness the professionalism displayed by our 1/102nd Soldiers while performing their duties.

There were several reenlistment and promotion ceremonies performed by Maj. Gen. Martin during our three day whirlwind tour of the FOBs. It was a great trip and I came back home confident our Soldiers are well trained and up to the task of completing their mission successfully.

In November I visited the 643rd MP Company Soldiers in Germany. The leadership has done an "Outstanding" job motivating their Soldiers to meet, and in some cases exceed, the Army's physical fitness standards. The unit is providing an invaluable service in conducting Community Law Enforcement in support of United States Army Garrisons. **Walk the Line!**

As we pause to celebrate the holidays and reflect on the past year, I want to take the opportunity to ask that all Connecticut National Guard Soldiers and Airmen that are fortunate to spend these joyous times with their loved ones to join with Maj. Gen. Martin and me and remember our brothers and sisters that are currently separated from their families because they are serving our state and country far from home.

Remember to keep in your prayers the members of the 1st Battalion 102nd Infantry, 143rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, HHD 192nd Engineer Battalion, 1048th Medium Truck Company, 643rd Military Police Company, the platoon from the 134th Military Police Company, Det 3 1109th AVCRAD, Det 2 Co I 185th Aviation and our individual Soldiers and Airmen deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and the Southwest Border Mission. They must remain in all our thoughts and prayers until they return home safely to their families and loved ones.

As leaders, we've sworn to take care of

the Soldiers and Airmen who are our subordinates. And taking care of them is the key to lowering attrition.

If our Soldiers or Airmen walk out, we need to assess the unit leadership's role in their decision. And if unit leadership is at fault, it's up to the Command to fix it.

When our Soldiers, Airmen and their families know that we are committed to them, they are much more likely to commit themselves to the Guard and to stay with their units. It's leadership's responsibility to inform Soldiers and Airmen immediately of all information that concerns their status and well-being as Guard members. Staying in touch with our subordinates means acting proactively to make sure that they have the resources, training, and challenges they need.

One of the best ways of staying in touch with your Soldiers and Airmen is to make time to talk with them directly and on a regular basis. Advising subordinates on their career development is a core leadership responsibility—we all train our replacements. A leader's ability to offer your Soldiers and Airmen a picture of what an advanced Guard career offers can be a tremendous incentive for them to stay with a unit.

Some Soldiers and Airmen who may be indifferent to their current Guard experience can be strongly motivated to stay by the increasing responsibilities and challenge of career development. I suspect that on many occasions Soldiers and Airmen do not extend their enlistments simply because their leader does not tell them they are important to our Team and ask them to stay.

During this Holiday Season I ask all Soldiers and Airmen and family members to drive safely and do not drink and drive. Please buckle up your seat belts every time you get into your vehicle. Too many lives are lost because of drunken drivers and failure to wear seat belts. Do not become a statistic.

Teresa and I extend our best and warmest wishes to you and your families for a happy and safe holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 2007. God bless you all and God bless the United States of America.

Send Letters to the Editor to:

Editor, Connecticut Guardian, National Guard Armory
360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105-3795

or by email to: ctguardian@us.army.mil

All letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.
Letters may be edited for grammar, spelling and space, but not for content.

Commentary

Does anyone else feel a draft?

COMMENTARY BY SGT. JORDAN E. WERME
130TH PAD

I wasn't drafted.

For that matter, neither were you, my fellow Soldiers.

We're all volunteers, and that makes for a solid, common element among our current ranks. No one can stand up and shout, in the middle of conflict, "I didn't ask for this! I shouldn't be here!"

My grandfather was drafted. My father might have been had he not volunteered.

But for World War II and Vietnam era Soldiers and other service members, a draft was the only way to pull a force together large enough to wage war on such a large scale.

But the United States has been an all-volunteer force for many years now. Long enough that for most young Americans it seems like a page out of a history book, an abstract that doesn't affect their lives any more than does the plight of soldiers born into the service of a Roman phalanx, many centuries ago.

Recently, the reinstatement of a service draft has been suggested by a handful of political leaders, most vocally Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), who has promised to propose legislation during the coming year that would implement a new draft.

Rangel has been quoted by the Associated Press as wanting to bring the draft back as "a way to deter politicians from launching wars."

But is reinstating a draft really the best way to prevent war? Having a nearly inexhaustible supply of draft-qualified young men and women seems to me to be less of a reason to avoid conflict. If there will always be more service members waiting for their draft papers to arrive, there will be

no political incentive to protect the ones already in service.

By keeping an all-volunteer force in service, we, as a nation, are ensuring that our service members remain the most motivated, willing and highly-trained force in the world. We ensure that our morale, even during these difficult years, will never reach unbearable lows.

Any member of an all-volunteer force can look any Soldier in the eye and know that because he has chosen to be standing there next to him, he is worthy of the trust and respect that is so vital in any conflict. There is never a question of motivation, never a pause to wonder if a battle buddy would rather be elsewhere.

Given the option, most Soldiers would choose peace, would choose to be with family. But to a person the choice has been made, without coercion, to stand strong with other, like-minded individuals, to face an opposing force and, even in the absence of home and hearth, to do what is needed to protect those we have left behind.

To use an old, and often tiresome, cliché, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. A group of Soldiers, too, be it squad or battalion, can be only as strong as the links that form its chain. By implementing a draft we risk corroding the chain, weakening the links that are so vital to success of mission.

Without the threat of draft, at 25 years of age, I volunteered. Five years later I am still here of my own free will and count myself fortunate for the opportunities I've received.

Without the threat of draft, you volunteered, too. Without a draft we have formed a chain of exceptional strength.

Our chain is Army Strong.

Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc

The Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc announces its 2007 scholarship program. This year the foundation will award a total of **four** scholarships.

1. **A single \$3000.00 scholarship honoring SGT Felix Delgreco Jr. will be awarded to a son or daughter of a member of the Connecticut ARMY National Guard.**
2. **Three \$2000.00 scholarships will be awarded to Connecticut National Guard and Organized Militia members or their sons, daughters, or spouses.**

Application forms may be found on the Foundations web site at: www.ctngfoundation.org

Additional Information:

1. Complete application packets must be postmarked no later than **15 March 2007**
2. The selection committee will choose students based on achievement and citizenship
3. You must be enrolled in, or planning to enroll in a regionally or nationally accredited degree or technical program
4. Mail application form and completed package to:

CTNG Foundation Inc.
Attn: Scholarship Committee
360 Broad Street, Hartford Armory
Hartford, CT 06015

5. Please contact the foundation at (860) 241 1550 or e-mail ctngfi@sbcglobal.net for further details.

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: Don't be a Holiday Statistic

Every 22 minutes, someone will die in an alcohol-related traffic accident. Although you probably think that it could never happen to you, experts say everyone has a 40-percent chance of being in a crash involving alcohol use sometime in their life. According to a Gallup survey from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), drunken driving is our No. 1 highway safety problem. Through education, increased law enforcement and stiffer penalties, the number of alcohol-related traffic accidents can be reduced.

Under Connecticut's **Implied Consent Law** any person who operates a motor vehicle is presumed to have given his or her consent to a test to determine blood alcohol concentration (BAC). You are legally intoxicated if your BAC is .08 or above. The rules are even tougher if you are under 21 years of age, you are legally intoxicated at a .02 BAC. Connecticut has enacted strong new measures to combat impaired driving. Stiff penalties, including mandatory sentencing and strict enforcement of our laws send a clear message REMEMBER: One drink = 5 oz. of 12 percent wine OR 12 oz. of 5 percent beer OR 1 1/2 oz. of 80 proof liquor Neither coffee nor a cold shower will help sober someone up. Only time can do that.

The following are the current Connecticut State laws for

drinking and driving and the penalties involved when one chooses to get in the driver's seat after one too many drinks:

Driving under the influence will not be tolerated on Connecticut's roadways.

We can do things to prevent our friends from drinking and getting behind the wheel of a car. When you plan your next holiday party, try some of the following tips to ensure that our loved ones are safe.

Tips for Party Givers

- Collect car keys from your guests.

- Always serve food with alcohol.
- Have several jiggers or self-measuring one-ounce bottle spouts at the bar to mix drinks.
- If you serve alcoholic punch, use a non-carbonated base such as fruit juice.
- Serve non-alcoholic beverages.
- Do not force drinks on your guests or rush to refill their glasses when empty.
- Stop serving alcohol about two hours before the party is over.
- If you observe a guest drinking too

much: engage him/her in conversation to slow down the drinking.

- Offer high protein food like pizza, shrimp or spareribs.
- Offer to make the next drink, using less alcohol and mixing it with a non-carbonated base.

When the Party's Over

· If one of your guests has been drinking and shouldn't drive, please don't give them back their car keys and let them drive. They could hurt themselves or others and maybe just a little persuasion from you could mean the difference between life and death.

· Suggest that you or a sober friend drive your alcohol impaired friend home. Their car can always be picked up at another time.

· Suggest that your impaired friend stay overnight in your home. This may sound inconvenient, but you could be saving your friend's, or someone else's life. Have your friend taken home in a taxi. Pay for the ride yourself. It's hard to object to a free ride.

· Whatever you do, don't give in. Friends don't let friends drink and then drive. In the morning, you'll have a safer and maybe an even closer friend.

Remember drinking and driving could end you military career.....

Don't let too many drinks and poor judgment get in the way of the future of you and your loved ones!

CT DUI Law DMV Administrative Penalty Chart			
Blood Alcohol Level	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
Refusal to submit to a blood, breath or urine test	6 months	1 year	3 years
Test results of .02 or higher and you are under twenty-one years of age	90 days	9 months	2 years
Test results of .08 or higher; up to, but not including, .16	90 days	9 months	2 years
Test results of .16 or higher	120 days	10 months	2 1/2 years

CT DUI Law Courthouse/Criminal Penalties		
First Offense* Test results of .08 or higher	Second Offense* (within 10 years) Test results of .08 or higher	Third Offense* (within 10 years of last conviction) Test results of .08 or higher
Fine: \$500 to \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$4,000	\$2,000 to \$8,000
Jail: 6 mo. 48 hrs. minimum mandatory or 6 mo., suspended with 100 hrs. community service.	2 yrs., 120 days minimum mandatory and 100 hrs. of community service	3 yrs., 1 yr. minimum mandatory and 100 hrs. of community service
Suspension: One year	Three years (or until you are 21 years of age, whichever is longer)	Permanent Revocation

GRAP for Retirees !!

GRAP is not just for current members of the National Guard anymore! If you are a military retiree, you too can earn \$2000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training.

Go online and sign up today!
www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com

NATIONAL GUARD

RECRUITING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Veterans' Assistance

Veterans Service Organizations have a lot to offer vets, families

DANIEL J. McHALE
STATE BENEFITS ADVISORS-CT

Most currently serving Military, Veterans, and their families, are unaware of the benefits and the support that VSO's (Veterans Service Organizations) and Military based "Associations" have to offer.

The GWOT has produced thousands of Veterans eligible for VA benefits and many are taking advantage of what the government has to offer. This is mainly because we are getting the word out about entitlements much more so than during and after other conflicts.

Today OIF/OEF Veterans are receiving everything from medical and educational benefits to housing and small business loans. But many aren't aware of other great organization and associations that support Veterans and their families and especially the men and women that are still serving in the Armed Forces of the United States today. These are the VSO's such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, (VFW) Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and (AMVETS) at least 20 others and their auxiliaries that provide and sponsor a myriad of benefits and events. Service Organizations such as NGA (National Guard Association of Connecticut), AUSA (Association of The United States Army), MOAA (Military Officer's Association of America), the Marine Corp League, 102nd Infantry Association, 169th Infantry Association, just to name a few, provide a strong voice on behalf of their membership.

They're all organizations and mostly unpaid volunteers that provide products, services and information to their membership. VSOs and Military affiliated Associations have millions of members and a strong voice in Congress through "lobbying" efforts. These are the organizations that fight for you rights, benefits and guarantee that you will have a voice in the legislative process to enhance your well being. The old saying "there is strength in numbers" really stands true and is a testimony for the hard work with Veterans benefits and entitlements that we enjoy today.

First of all, you have to be a member in order to receive all the good things these organizations provide but that is just the beginning, you have to participate. Participation, not just paying dues or fees, but by getting involved by going to meetings and voicing your opinions. This is the best way to support change and input ideas for future legislation that would impact and benefit the membership. Participation is the key to getting the most benefit from the organizations.

For the next several months, I will select a few of these Organizations and Associations

and try to convey information to you regarding their mission, purpose, products and service they provide to membership and their families. This month I will highlight the American Legion.

1. The American Legion. (the largest of the VSO's) Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion for God and Country. We associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Who we are

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veteran's organization. A community-service Organization which now numbers nearly 3 million members — men and women — in nearly 15,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. These Posts are organized into 55 Departments — one each for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and The Philippines.

The American Legion's national headquarters is in Indianapolis, Indiana, with additional offices in Washington, DC. In addition to thousands of volunteers serving in leadership and program implementation capacities in local communities to the Legion's standing national commissions and committees, the national organization has a regular full-time staff of about 300 employees.

Products & Services

National Convention, Legion Baseball, Boys State, Boys Nation, National Oratorical Contest, Scouting, Junior Shooting Sports, Legion College, Educational Aids, Endowment Fund, National Emergency Fund, Temporary Financial Assistance, American Legion Riders and Veterans Career Center.

Educational Aids

The American Legion National Committee on Education keeps the Legion abreast of developments and problems in education. The committee recommends appropriate policies and programs that the Legion should adopt and maintains contact with the educational community, exchanging ideas freely with educators, students and other organizations concerned with the well-being of the nation's education system. Much of the committee's efforts are directed toward veterans returning to school, citizenship

development, adult education, financial aid programs and participating in American Education Week.

Endowment Fund

Income from Endowment Fund investments are passed on to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Child Welfare programs of The American Legion National Organization, and channeled through them to state and local programs.

National Emergency Fund

Legion Family Members helping Legion Family Members

Our Preamble to The American Legion Constitution says it best, "...devotion to mutual helpfulness." This phrase is more than just mere words on paper; it's our pledge of support to our distressed comrades. Since the early 1920's, The American Legion has been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual Legion family members in the wake of disaster.

Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, wildfires... The American Legion National Emergency Fund was born out of natural disasters to compassionately heal the wounds of catastrophe and help save their homes. A major disaster could happen to any Legionnaire in any town at anytime and make them homeless.

The National Emergency Fund has provided over \$3,000,000 in direct financial assistance to Legion family members and posts. The National Emergency Fund has kept posts from closing and enabled Legion family members to begin to rebuild their homes and their lives.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Eligibility open to Legionnaires, Auxiliary ** and Sons members (up to \$1,500) Legion Posts (up to \$5,000). (** If Auxiliary membership is less than 5 years continuous. Otherwise, will be forwarded to the National American Legion Auxiliary for consideration.)

2. Not meant to replace or repair items, only to meet most immediate needs (i.e., temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.)

3. Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application

How To Apply

1. Application must be received within 90 days of disaster.

2. Disaster must be a "declared natural disaster" by Federal, State or local government authorities.

3. Supporting data (photos, repair estimates, etc.) should be included if at all possible or statements (testimony) from post/district/department officers attesting to damages.

4. Only one grant per household.

5. Not designed for insurance compensation, loss of business,

outbuildings on your property (barns, tool sheds, silos, etc.), equipment (tractors or other farm vehicles), or any type of automobile.

Members must complete a National Emergency Fund Grant Application. Applications may be obtained by contacting your Department Headquarters or by calling The American Legion National Headquarters at (317) 630-1321. You can also download a grant application by going on their Webb site. Application is properly completed by applicant then sent to the Department Headquarters for approval. If everything is in order, department will forward to National. Upon approval at the National level, a check will be sent to the Department Headquarters for delivery to the Legion Family Member or Post in distress.

How You Can Help

We have an obligation to assist those less fortunate members when the need arises, and we do — through our donations to the National Emergency Fund. All contributions made to this fund are deposited in a special account and are used exclusively to meet our member's most urgent needs. Not one single contribution dollar is used for fundraising, administrative costs or fulfillment.

The money in the fund comes by way of generous donations from Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion members. Send your tax-Deductible Contributions To: The American Legion, National Emergency Fund, P.O. BOX 6141, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Temporary Financial Assistance

In the 1920s The American Legion began a national program of Temporary Financial Assistance to keep the children of deceased or Disabled veterans at home rather than in institutions. This cash aid is still available for cases not covered by subsequent state and federal programs for the needy. In 1999, the TFA program provided more than \$302,983 to 466 families, benefiting almost 960 children.

Through TFA, a local Post can call upon the National Organization for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of veterans' children. The TFA fund has been used to assist families in meeting the costs of shelter, food, utilities and health expense items when the parents are unable to do so, thereby keeping the child, or children, in a more stable home environment. You can make a donation to the Temporary Financial Assistance program by sending your check or money order, made out to: Temporary Financial Assistance, PO Box 361626, Indianapolis, IN 46235-5331.

Next month we'll look at AUSA and NGA.

"No Veteran Left Behind"

Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: Gifts to wounded service members

Many Americans desire to show their gratitude to service members by giving them something of value (a gift). Nevertheless, service members are routinely cautioned that the acceptance of any gift may violate laws and service regulations, depending upon the circumstances. In consideration of the recent publicity concerning "gifts to wounded service members," the Department of Defense Standards of Conduct Office developed updated guidance concerning "gifts," noting that the basic rules concerning the policies regarding the enforcement of ethics regulations have been in effect without significant changes since 1993.

What is DoD policy when it comes to wounded troops accepting gifts valued at more than \$20?

There is no "DoD policy" other than to apply the Federal gift acceptance rules promulgated by the Office of Government Ethics (OGE). OGE sets forth a general prohibition on Federal personnel, including members of the National Guard, from accepting gifts offered because of their official positions, or offered by a prohibited source. (5 CFR 2635.201(b)(4) and 2635.202(a)) This restriction may also extend to gifts to family members because Federal personnel may not accept gifts that are

attributed to them as given, with their knowledge and acquiescence, to their parents, siblings, spouses, children or dependent relatives because of that person's relationship to them. (5 CFR 2635.203(f)) (Families of deceased Federal personnel are not covered by Federal gift regulations.) A "prohibited source" means any person who:

- Is seeking official action by the employee's agency;
- Does business or seeks to do business with the employee's agency;
- Conducts activities regulated by the employee's agency;
- Has interests that may be substantially affected by performance or nonperformance of the employee's official duties; or
- Is an organization a majority of whose members are such persons.

There are, however, several, pertinent exclusions from the definition of "gift" and exceptions to the prohibition.

Not gifts are:

- Benefits available to the public or all military personnel, whether or not restricted on the basis of geographic considerations." (5 CFR 2635.203(b)(4)). This covers most broad military discount or free attendance offers or "bulk gifts" (like 100,000 pairs of sunglasses).
- Anything accepted on behalf of the Government pursuant to statutory authority,

including,

- Agency gift acceptance authority. (10 U.S.C. 2601, 2608) Each Service has an implementing regulation delegating acceptance on behalf of the Government depending on value (e.g., \$10,000.00 and below by commanding officer) and type (e.g., cash and real estate have higher levels required). Service or appropriate commander can accept items then re-distribute as part of authorized Morale, Welfare, and Recreation activity or patient support service.
- Gifts of travel expenses. (31 U.S.C. 1353)
- Donated travel benefits for deployed service members. (10 U.S.C. 2613)

Excepted from the gifts restriction are:

- Gifts of \$20 or less. However there is a \$50/year limit on gifts from the same source.
- Benefits offered by non-prohibited sources to any group or class that is not defined in a way to discriminate based on official responsibility or higher rank or pay. (5 CFR 635.204(c)(2)(iii)). This exception allows most broad offers to injured or deployed service members and their families as long as the donor is not a prohibited source.
- Awards for meritorious public service or achievement from a person who does not have interests that may be substantially affected by the recipient. (5 CFR

2635.204(d)). All cash awards and any award over \$200 require written ethics counselor

determination that the award is regularly made pursuant to written standards. Many gifts to "heroes," "combat-decorated veterans," and similar categories may be accepted under this provision.

• Free attendance at social events sponsored by non-prohibited sources in which no fee is charged. (5 CFR 2635.204(h)).

What are troops or their family members who receive gifts required to do?

If the gift has not come to them via official channels, they should consult with an ethics counselor (Judge Advocate), directly or via command representative, to confirm the propriety of acceptance. Please note that there is no attorney-client privilege when a service members requests an ethics opinion. Service members and other Federal employees may not solicit gifts from prohibited sources or by using their official position. (5 CFR 2635.202(c)(2)) This prohibition does not prevent Service members from advising groups or individuals, who are seeking to assist Service members, of their needs. When in doubt, seek an ethics opinion. Contact your Judge Advocate.



WAYNE E. TRAVERS JR.
CTESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN
WAYNE.E.TRAVERS@US.ARMY.MIL

Add ESGR to your New Year's Resolution List

The month of December conjures up images of Santa Claus, presents and caroling, but as a retired Army National Guard officer, I know one of the less-anticipated aspects of the final month of the year is the annual informational briefings held at each unit.

NCOs and officers often dread having to give a briefing to a captive audience and many enlisted Soldiers and airmen do their best to pay attention during a range of topics that often includes Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve and how it can assist employers and employees.

It's understandable that a family member waiting patiently on the drill shed floor or the scent of roasting turkey may divert the attention of many Soldiers and airmen, so if you miss any portion of the ESGR briefing, I have a suggestion: Put ESGR on your "New Year's Resolutions" list.

To keep the list manageable, I will provide a list of a few simple tasks that, if completed, will provide important information and

enhance the employer-employee relationship:

- Learn the basics of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), which details the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees regarding military service.
- Visit www.esgr.com. This Web site provides important information and resources for ESGR volunteers, service members and employers alike. You'll be surprised at what you will find there, I promise.
- Obtain a 2007 yearly training calendar or drill schedule from your first-line leader and give a copy to your employer. This will help your employer understand your commitment and facilitate issues such as scheduling or job coverage during absences for weekend drills, annual training or other military obligations.
- Talk to your employer about your military service. Tell your boss what you do when you're wearing the uniform. Explain your military occupational specialty and the mission of your National Guard unit. You'll be surprised to discover that most employers are genuinely interested in what you do to

serve your nation and community.

- Recognize your employer if he/she has gone "above and beyond" in supporting your military service. ESGR has an awards program that honors employers who go the extra mile for their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. You can nominate your employer online at: <http://www.esgr.com/members2/onlineForms.asp>

For
deployment-
related
questions
call

1-800-858-2677

INFORMATION
Security Begins With You!

The success of America's campaign against terrorism depends on you. Don't help America's enemies plan another attack. Use secure communications when discussing classified or sensitive information. Handle and discard memos, documents, correspondence and e-mails appropriately. Practice good computer security when accessing the Internet. Our enemies are unlikely to be encountered before. Don't confide with information that can harm us.

RESISTANCE IS A VIRTUE

Inside OCS

The Foundation of Excellence

OC ALLEN DIAMOND
OCS CLASS 52

Leadership, by definition, is influencing people by providing purpose, direction, and motivation while operating to accomplish the mission and improving the organization. However, leadership comes in many different forms and styles that are unique to each person. To me leadership is setting an example, being confident, providing guidance and supervision for subordinates, and being able to effectively communicate and problem solve no matter what conditions you are faced with.

Leadership is not something that can be taught by OCS. Candidates must possess the ability to lead prior to entering the program. OCS is designed to refine and further develop the leadership skills of an individual in a team environment.

When I first joined OCS I didn't actually know what I was getting myself into. Phase I challenged me physically and mentally. There were many long days and short nights, creating a stressful environment in which I had to begin to work on instinct and trust myself. For the first time in my experience at a military school the students are expected to run the show. The instructors and TAC officers are there to

put out the schedule, evaluate, and provide guidance and instruction when necessary.

As a future officer in the Army I have realized that I must put others before myself. I have also realized that I must make sacrifices, and that starts in training that I am receiving at OCS. OCS drill weekends are long and challenging, but they are nothing compared to the task I will face when I receive my commission. OCS creates a mountain of tasks and I must be able to prioritize which ones are the most important, to be successful. This is a skill that I will need to be able to carry over when I receive my commission.

When I am asked why I joined the program, without hesitation my answer is "I want to be a leader so I can better serve my country." The answer may seem simple, but we join OCS to become officers and future leaders.

OCS is an intensive program that places candidates in a stressful environment in order to test their ability to lead. Since beginning the OCS program I have found new confidence in myself not only as a person, but also as a future leader. I would suggest the program to anybody who believes they have what it takes and are up for the challenge.

Do you have what it takes
to push your career to the next level?



1st Battalion (OCS), 169th Regiment
(LDR)

**Officer Candidate School
Information Briefs:**

DATES

18 NOV 06
16 DEC 06
27 JAN 07
24 FEB 07
17 MAR 07
28 APR 07

Bring a Friend, Spouse or Significant Other.
Information Brief will be in Building 402,
Leadership Hall, beginning at 1000 hours

For more information contact
CPT Shaun O'Dea or 1LT David Lord
(860) 691-4216
OCSCT@ct.ngb.army.mil



Why Diversity

1109th AVCRAD receives Army Guard's Excellence in Diversity Unit Award

CAPT. AMY FLYNN
STATE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT MANAGER

The 1109th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD) was awarded the Army National Guard's Excellence in Diversity-Unit Award for significant contributions to Diversity Readiness during fiscal year 2005.

Lt. Col. Thomas Boland, 1109th AVCRAD Commander, accepted the award on behalf of the unit during a ceremony hosted by Lt. Gen. Steven H. Blum, Chief, National Guard Bureau, on Oct. 26, in Arlington, Virginia.

Also in attendance were Maj. Gen. Charles Ickes II, Deputy Director, Air National Guard and Brig. Gen. James Nuttall, Deputy Directory, Army National Guard.

The National Guard Bureau's Diversity Initiatives Office and the Office of Cultural Transformation annually recognize those Army and Air National Guard individuals and organizations (unit/wings) that have made significant contributions to Diversity Readiness with appropriate resources for the accomplishment of the job, as well as the implementation of diversity initiatives that impact on unit readiness.

The awards play an important role in combating structural barriers that prevent

acceptance of diversity in the workplace.

Excellence in Diversity award winners are selected based on a point system using criteria that examines contributions to the National Guard, state, and local community, as well as documenting growth in diversity and exhibiting a positive retention strength from the prior year to present, spanning a full year. "These awards are an outstanding way to recognize the great work that is being performed, on a daily basis, by the members of our organization," stated Capt. Flynn, State Equal Employment Manager, also in attendance at the award ceremony.

The 1109th AVCRAD was selected as the Army National Guard's Excellence in Diversity-Unit Award winner for the proactive measures and command emphasis placed on the importance of diversity during fiscal year 2005.

Several of the initiatives that set the 1109th AVCRAD apart from other nominated organizations include the establishment of an Equal Opportunity/Diversity Council that collectively worked to eliminate barriers and provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment. The council helped

equal opportunity.

The unit's organizational information board, titled "Diversity is our Strength," speaks volumes as to the human relations' commitment of this noteworthy organization. In addition to a strong council, the organization boasts a high retention rate and a strong mentorship program.

The AVCRAD's focus on retention and mentorship begins on the day a new Soldier arrives as part of the unit's established Sponsorship Program.

The program intent is to ensure that each new Soldier begins his or her career, with the 1109th AVCRAD, feeling valued for the unique qualities and skills they are bringing to the team.

The 1109th AVCRAD has a proven record of success in fostering a sense of unity and value amongst its members.

They have worked hard to educate and increase awareness on the important role that Diversity plays in personnel readiness and mission accomplishment.

A strong command focus and dedicated force of individuals have contributed to the 1109th AVCRAD's selection as the Army National Guard's Excellence in Diversity-Unit Award winner.



Health & Fitness

Medical Notes

MAJ. JOHN A. LEACH
CTARNG

Every Soldier looks forward to the day he can finally retire and enjoy life.

Unfortunately, many Soldiers who have been smokers develop serious health problems, resulting in chronic illnesses during their retirement years and the possibility of premature death.

The life span of a smoker is reduced, on average, by approximately eight years.

As a health care professional, nothing saddens me more than to see a fellow veteran suffer or die from a preventable illness related to smoking.

According to the Surgeon General's report, tobacco induced illnesses are the most preventable cause of disease and premature death in the United States.

The Center for Disease Control estimates that smoking causes 444,000 premature deaths each year resulting in 5.6 million years of potential life lost.

Smoking can also be the direct cause of

\$75 billion in direct medical cost and \$82 billion in lost productivity.

The U.S. Public Health Service estimates that there have been 12 million premature deaths in this country from smoking since the first Surgeon General's report on smoking and health effects in 1964.

Tobacco is now the second major cause of death world wide and the fourth most common risk factor for disease.

The World Health Organization recently estimated that there will be 1 billion deaths, world wide this century from smoking.

Most people do not know that secondhand smoke, in the home, can affect our children.

Secondhand smoke is known to cause fetal retardation, sudden infant death syndrome, increased frequency of asthma attacks as well as ear nose and throat problems.

The tobacco companies are selling their

product worldwide and doing everything they can to get people addicted. This is big business and they are putting profits over the health of billions of people.

"Quitting is easy," "I have done it many times."

These are statements that I have heard frequently. It is common for people to try several times before they finally quit.

Tobacco is one of the most addicting substances known to man. Many alcoholics and drug addicts have told me they had an easier time quitting these substances than cigarettes.

No one will quit until they are ready. No amount of prodding will force someone to quit.

When individuals are ready to quit, we now have many programs and drugs, to offer, that will assist people in quitting.

Smoking cessation programs have the

most success, as they integrate education with medication and follow-up. Your physician can offer you gum containing nicotine (Nicorette), nicotine patches, nicotine nasal spray, nicotine inhalers, nicotine lozenges, bupropion (Zyban) and on occasion some people may benefit from hypnosis.

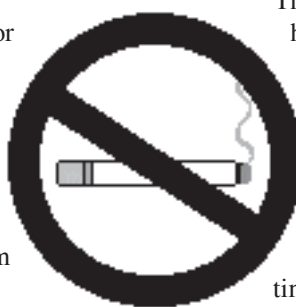
I usually tell people to start by tapering the number of cigarettes they smoke each day, cutting out just one cigarette every two of three days until they get to the lowest number possible, then start the patch if needed.

My hope is that all smokers will stop and think.

Is the pleasure of smoking worth the risk?

When a family member becomes ill or dies prematurely, the whole family suffers along with the suffering victim.

In this country there are millions of children who have never met one or both of their grandparents because their grandparent chose to smoke.



It's time for the Annual Connecticut Children's Place Christmas Party!!!



Donations Needed:
Money
Toys
Your Time
Food
Turkeys
Paper Goods

Volunteers Needed:
Baking
Clean-up
Set-up
Gift-wrapping

Thursday, December 14, 2005
Hours: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Base Dining Hall

INFORMATION POINTS OF CONTACT:

SMSgt Sheryl Laporte (860) 292-2788	MSgt Teresa Lavender (860) 292-2480
MSgt Leslie Wheeler (860) 292-2489	MSgt Holly Caroon (860) 292-2413
MSgt Sharon Horan (860) 292-2442	SSgt Melissa Letizio (860) 292-2443
TSgt Heather Kirkham (860) 292-2462	SSgt Dawn Whelan (860) 292-2450
TSgt Carolyn Fitch (860) 292-2749	Ms. Maureen O'Reilly (860) 292-2810

Please come and support this worthwhile cause. Donations of cash from sections will be greatly appreciated; in addition, donations of toys, food, and time are necessary...Please contact any of the above individuals for information on how you can help!!

Checks can be made payable to the Bradley Aero Guard Association.



2007 Joint Military Medicine Conference COL Robert Nett Hall Camp Rell, Niantic CT 06357



Saturday, February 3, 2007
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

James Smirniotopoulos, M.D.
Chairman, Radiology and Radiological Sciences
Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences
"CT / MR Imaging of Head Trauma"

Michael Zanker, M.D., FACEP
Office of the Chief Medical Officer
Department of Homeland Security
"Disaster Preparation: the Federal View"

Stanley Chartoff, M.D.
COL / MC / U.S. Air Force Reserve
"Transport of the Critically Ill Patient"

Eloise Hudd, R.N.
MAJ / CT Air National Guard
103 MDG / SGPM
"Public Health Issues in Iraq"

Eric Allely, M.D.
COL / MC
State Surgeon, MD Army National Guard
"PTSD in Active Duty and Reserve Unit Soldiers"

Jessica Perkins
Z-Medica Corporation
Wallingford, CT 06492
"Hemorrhage in the Field: The Use of Quick Clot"

All Military Health Care Professionals and Medical Students are encouraged to attend.

To Register, contact: susan.l.burns@us.army.mil
Ph: 860-691-4257

Combating Substance Abuse: Drug Addiction

CW4 TONY UVA
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION OFFICER

Drug addiction and dependence is a complex illness. The path to drug addiction starts with the act of taking drugs but a definition of addiction is not that clear cut. Addiction is sometimes characterized as having uncontrollable drug cravings. It is also defined as having at least 3 of the following signs: a tolerance for the drug (needing increased amounts to achieve the same effect); withdrawal symptoms; taking the drug in larger amounts that was intended or over a longer period of time than was intended; having a persistent desire to decrease or the inability to decrease the amount of the drug consumed; spending a great deal of time attempting to acquire the drug; and finally, continuing to use the drug even though the person knows there are reoccurring physical or psychological problems being caused by the drug. The alleged addictive nature of drugs varies from substance to substance, and from individual to individual. Drugs such

as codeine or alcohol, for instance, require more exposures to addict their users than drugs such as heroin or cocaine. A person who is psychologically or genetically predisposed to addiction is much more likely to suffer from it. Drug addiction has two components: physical dependency, and psychological dependency. Physical dependency occurs when a drug has been used habitually and the body has become accustomed to its effects. In this case the person must continue to use the drug in order to feel normal, or its absence will trigger the symptoms of withdrawal. Psychological dependency occurs when a drug has been used habitually and the mind has become emotionally reliant to its effects, either to elicit pleasure or relieve pain. Its absence produces intense cravings and the individual does not feel capable of functioning without it. The compulsion to use drugs can take over the individual's life. Addiction often involves not only

compulsive drug taking but also a wide range of dysfunctional behaviors that can interfere with normal interactions within the family, the workplace and the broader community. Addiction can result in increasing risks to a wide variety of illnesses brought on by behaviors, such as poor living and health habits, that often accompany life as an addict, or because of the toxic effects of the drugs themselves. The most common drug addictions are to legal substances: Alcohol, Nicotine in the form of tobacco; particularly cigarettes; and caffeine in the form of tea, coffee, and caffeinated sodas. Prescription and over the counter drugs can also become addictive if abused. Methods of recovery from drug addiction vary widely according to the types of drugs involved, the amount of drugs used, the duration of the drug addiction or medical complications and the social needs of the individual. Treatment is just as important for the addicted individual's family significant other as it is for the person receiving medical treatment. One popular recovery method is the

12 Step program used by Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Outpatient clinics usually offer a combination of individual counseling and group counseling. For those who are more seriously addicted, Substance-abuse rehabilitation centers frequently offer residential treatment programs. Frequently a physician will assist with prescriptions to assist with the side effects (especially anxiety). While many different ideas have circulated regarding what is considered to be a successful outcome in recovery, it has been widely established that abstinence is the most successful result. The Connecticut National Guard Web Site <http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil> can aid you in obtaining information about alcohol and drug abuse treatment and prevention. Remember drug abuse is incompatible with military service, and if you feel that you or someone you know has a particular problem, contact your chain of command.

History: *Sybil Ludington - The Female Paul Revere*

COL. ROBERT CODY

During the attack on Danbury in April 1777, British Gen. Tryon's raiders burned nineteen dwellings and twenty-two barns and storehouses. The general claimed that the homes were near the magazine and "unavoidably burned." Although the irreplaceable medical supplies were saved when they were moved to New Milford in the days leading up to the attack, the patriots lost 1,700 critically needed tents to enemy's torches. The full effects of the loss of these tents and other provisions would be felt by the Continental Army the following winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Tryon's raid also destroyed 1,600 bushels of corn, 700 bushels of wheat, 1,700 barrels of pork and 50 barrels of beef. The attack on Danbury was not without the loss of life. Four young men fired on the British as they marched into the town from the windows of a home near the courthouse. The incensed enemy rushed the house and killed the patriots. As the patriots under Generals Wooster, Arnold and Silliman were pushing their way north to Danbury; another exciting tale of heroism was being played out just over the border in New York. A courier from Danbury reached the home of Lt. Col. Henry Ludington in nearby Fredericksburg, New

York, with the news that the British were attacking Danbury. Ludington commanded the 7th Militia Regiment of Dutchess County. He needed to alert his men, but the courier was too exhausted to continue. The colonel could not go himself because he needed to be present to muster the Soldiers as they reported. Ludington's sixteen-year-old daughter, Sybil, volunteered to take on the responsibility and spread the word to his unit. The eldest of six children, Sybil mounted her pet horse, "Star," and set off to alert the militia. As she rode past their homes, she yelled, "Look to the East! The British are burning Danbury! Meet at Ludingtons! Summon help!" An estimated four hundred militiamen mustered at Ludingtons and marched to Redding, where they joined generals Silliman and Arnold. Today, historic markers trace her route through Carmel, Mahopac, Kent Cliffs and Farmers Mills. Some accounts calculate her trip at over forty miles. The forty-year-old Paul Revere covered just sixteen miles on his more famous ride. In 1974, the United States Postal Service issued an eight-cent stamp in honor of this heroic young woman who has been hailed as "Connecticut's Paul Revere."

Membership Opportunities

in the

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard

The Oldest U.S. Military Organization
in Continuous Service Since 1771
is Currently Accepting
Membership Applications.

- Positions available in our rifle companies, band, color guard, rifle team, and honor guard.
- Participate in State ceremonies and represent Connecticut's military heritage.
- All State Militia uniforms provided

Everyone Welcome!

Membership information
available at: Governorsfootguard.com
or call (860) 522-1337



Retirees' Voice

Watching Congress, watching out for scams

SGT. 1ST CLASS (RET.) JOHN BEDNARZ

Congress has just had its Thanksgiving recess and will reconvene on Dec. 4 for the House and the Dec. 5 for the Senate. They will continue to work on the spending bills and related items to close the 109th Congressional Session. The first regular session of the 110th Congress begins at noon on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007. We will see how the Democrats fare as leaders of Congress.

The Senate has approved its version of the 2007 Military Construction and Veterans appropriations bill (HR 5358), and it is ready for conference with the House, who passed their version of the bill last May. Republicans are dragging their feet to appoint conferees for final consideration. They say they will pass a stop-gap measure if necessary. Veterans spending should be a national priority and this bill should get enacted before the end of this session. In any case, be ready to crank up your

computer or typewriter and send those letters and e-mails to let Congress know how you feel about their actions.

Please don't fall for the latest e-mail scam related to the Social Security announcement of the new COLA adjustment. Social Security would never ask you for your account information and would not suspend your account based on an e-mail message. Never give account or personal information when it is solicited, whether by e-mail or by phone.

The new Disability Pay, DIC and other tables for 2007 are now available by going to the VA website: [HTTP://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates). Remember that the rates go into effect on December 1, 2006, but you won't receive the additional amount until your January 2007 pay.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and the New Year. Good Health and Happiness.

Web Sites to watch

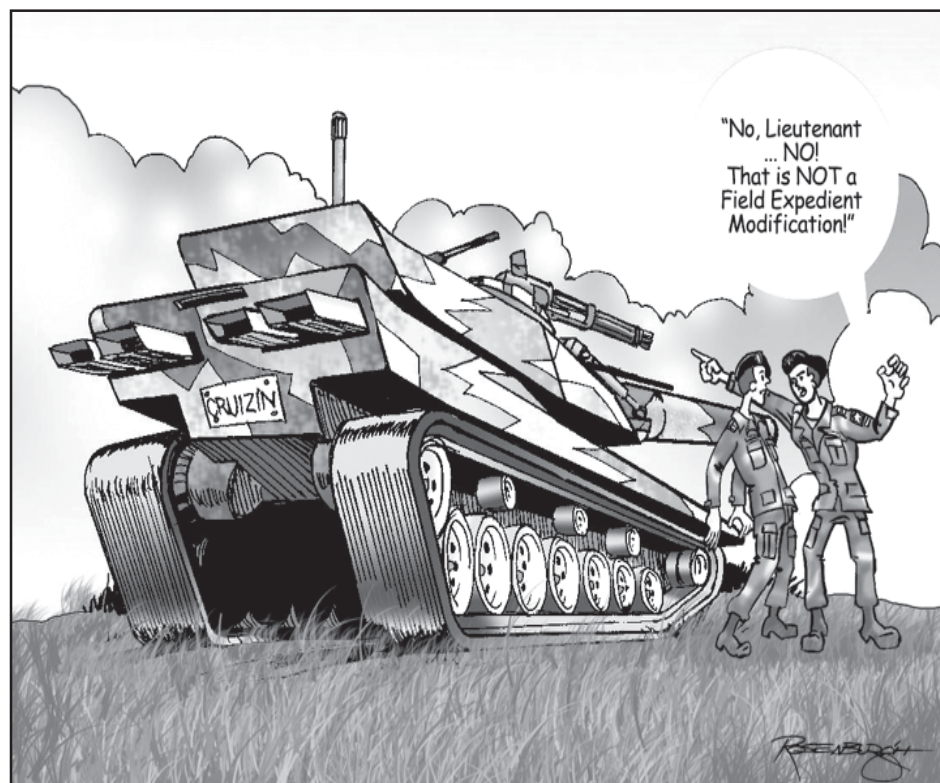
U.S. Senate: www.senate.gov


U.S. House of Representatives: www.house.gov

Thomas: thomas.loc.gov (no www)

2nd Louie

By Bob Rosenburgh





Army Aviation Association of America Connecticut Chapter

Presents
**The Annual Connecticut Chapter
Holiday Social**
For our Members and Guests

Proceeds Donated to the
CT National Guard Foundation

Tuesday, December 12, 2004
5:30 – 8:00 pm

Stonebridge Restaurant
50 Daniel St
Milford, CT

Bring your Significant Other!
Donation of \$10

RSVP to Norma Nardozzi (203)-386-4692 by Dec 1

Directions to Stonebridge – East end of Milford Green
<http://www.stonebridgerestaurant.com/>
From the South
I-95 North to exit 37. Turn right onto High Street. Turn Left onto Railroad Ave.
Turn Right onto River Street. Make a left onto New Haven Avenue / CT - 162.
Stonebridge is located on your left.
From the North
Exit 36 Plains Rd. End of Ramp make right. At 1st light go straight across Post Rd.
follow signs for Hospital. Go through 2 stop signs, at end of road at light make a left onto New Haven/
Bridgeport Avenue. Pass Milford hospital on right, go straight through 1 light.
Go through 2nd light, Stonebridge is directly on left.



PVT. MURPHY'S LAW

By SFC Mark Baker

"T'WAS THE NIGHT
BEFORE CHRISTMAS..."



© M. Baker 2004

"WHEN ALL THROUGH
THE HOUSE..."



"NOT A CREATURE
WAS STIRR... PROBABLY
'CAUSE THEY WERE
FREEZING TO DEATH!"



HEY, I'M JUST TRYING TO BRING
SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER TO
THIS HOLE. NOW, DO YA' WANT
TO HEAR THE REST OF THE STORY
OR NOT?!



Connecticut National Guard Fulltime Employment Opportunities

The following are Connecticut Army and Air National Guard Technician openings. For a copy of the full Technician vacancy announcements, go to www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Computer Assistant	AASF	GS-09	12/8/2006
Materials Examiner and Identifier (Indefinite)	AASF	WG-07	12/8/2006
Surface Maintenance Mechanic	CSMS	WG-10/08	12/9/2006
Aircraft Inspector (Indefinite)	AVCRAD	WG-12	12/9/2006
Supervisory Supply Technician	AASF	GS-08	12/8/2006
Fuel Distribution System Worker	AASF	WG-06	12/12/2006
Aircraft Mechanic	AASF	WG-10/08/05	12/12/2006
Financial Manager	USPFO	GS-13	12/13/2006

Air National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Aircraft Mechanic (2 Indefinite positions)	103rd FW	WG-12	12/5/2006
Air Traffic Control Specialist (Indefinite)	103rd ACS	GS-11	12/19/2006

Listed below are current openings in the Connecticut National Guard AGR program. For a copy of the Military Tour Vacancy Announcement, go the www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Production Recruiter	Recruiting and Ret Det	SFC/E-7	Open AGR (Nationwide)
Dog Handler	11th MWD Det	SPC/E-4	Open AGR Nationwide
Supply NCO	C(-) 3-142 AVN	E-3 to E-5	Open AGR (Nationwide)
Drug Demand Reduct. Spec (ADSW)	JFHQ-CT	E-5 to E-7	Open Statewide (CT Only)
Financial Manager	JFHQ-CT (USPFO-COMP)	0-3 THRU 0-5	Open AGR (CT ONLY)

Air National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Aircraft Mechanic	103RD FW	E2 THRU E6	On Board AGR
Air Traffic Control Specialist	103RD ACS	01-03; E1-E9	On Board AGR

NOTE: Other positions with outdated closing dates are also listed on the website. Some of these positions are currently under consideration, and others may have their application dates extended. Keep checking the website and if you have any questions concerning outdated postings, call HRO at (860) 878-6739 or (860) 878-6729.

Visit the
**Connecticut
Guardian**
on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Coming Events

December

December 7

Pearl Harbor Day

December 13

NGACT Board Meeting - Open to All

December 16

Operation E.L.F. Holiday Party

Hartford Armory

December 16

Hanukkah

December 25

Christmas

December 26

Kwanzaa

December 31

New Year's Eve

January

January 1

New Year's Day

January 3

Governor's Inauguration

January 10

NGACT Executive Board Meeting- Open to all

January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February

February 7

NGACT Executive Board Meeting - Open to all

February 12

Lincoln's Birthday

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 19

Presidents' Day

February 21

Ash Wednesday

In future issues

Governor's Inaugural

G 126th AVN Freedom Salute

Operation E.L.F. Wrap-Up

News from Deployed Units

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month previous to publication.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM AFGHANISTAN

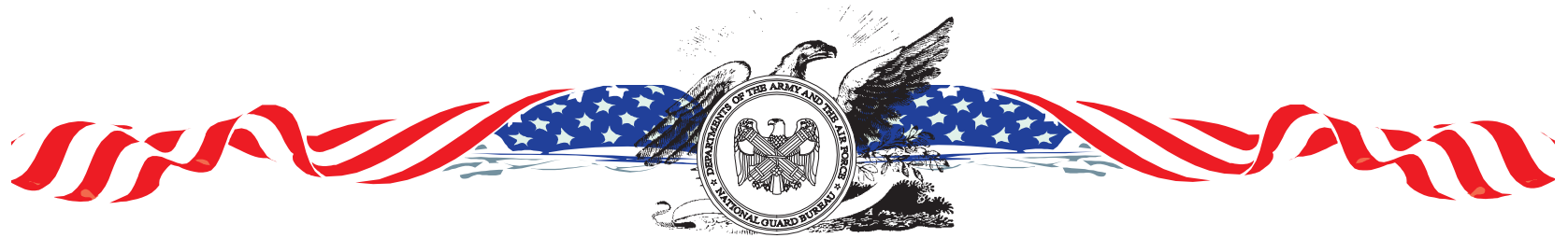


Photos courtesy of Det. 1
Company B, 1/102nd
Infantry, CTARNG



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Family Deployment Supplement to the Connecticut Guardian

VOL. 7 NO. 12

HARTFORD, CT

DECEMBER 2006



NORAD's Santa Tracking Web site opens for 2006 season

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo., Nov. 17, 2006 — In advance of the holiday season and its 51st season of tracking Santa Claus on his annual journey around the world, the North American Aerospace Defense Command today activated its "NORAD Tracks Santa" Web site for 2006.

The U.S.-Canadian command's program began in 1955 when an errant phone call was made to NORAD's predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The call was from a local child who dialed a misprinted telephone number in a local newspaper advertisement.

The commander who answered the phone that night gave the youngster the information he requested - the whereabouts of Santa Claus - and thus the tradition of NORAD tracking Santa began.

The program has grown immensely since it was first presented on the Internet in 1998. Last year, the Web

site received 912 million "hits" from 204 countries and territories. In addition, the NORAD Tracks Santa Operations Center, occupied by 550 volunteers on Christmas Eve, answered nearly 55,000 phone calls and nearly 98,240 e-mails from children around the world.

The Web site — www.noradsanta.org — features the history of the program, information on how NORAD tracks Santa and interactive games. On Dec. 24, beginning at 2 a.m. Mountain Time, the Web site will feature a minute-by-minute update on Santa's travels around the world. All of this information is available English, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish.

Island Web Studios, America Online, Akami, Analytical Graphics, Globelink Language and Cultural Services, Qwest Communications, Verizon, and Microsoft Virtual Earth help to make the program possible, NORAD officials said.

(From a North American Aerospace Defense Command news release.)

Tricare announces updated reimbursement rates

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFPN) — An updated list of the Tricare reimbursement rates is now available to beneficiaries. The changes for fiscal year 2007 include updated rates for inpatient mental health, residential treatment centers, partial hospitalization, hospice, and inpatient cost-shares for civilian hospitals.

"We take very seriously the president's initiative toward transparency in health care costs," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of the Tricare Management Activity. "This is just one way we make the cost of medical services available to our beneficiaries."

Tricare reimbursement rates are aligned with Medicare rates as set by Congress. However, Tricare does have some dispensations that may not be available to Medicare to ensure that beneficiaries continue to have health care available.

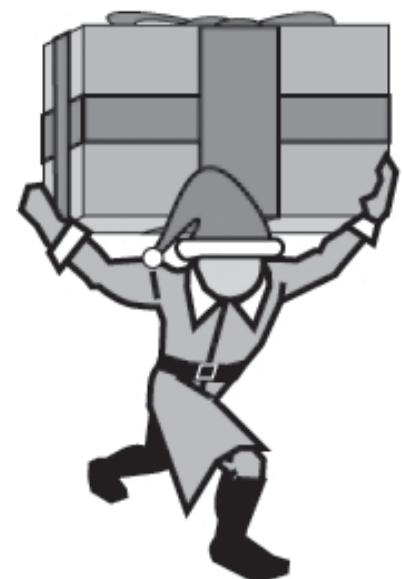
"It is important for our service members and their families to know that we will take care of them," General Granger said.

Medicare premiums also change annually and now the Medicare Part B premium is linked to income. In 2007, individual incomes will trigger premium increases at \$80,000, \$100,000, \$150,000 and \$200,000. For married couples the premium rises when the income is double those amounts. However, this change will have no effect on Tricare costs or benefits for those who are also Medicare beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries may view the updated reimbursement rates on the Tricare web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/tricarecost.cfm.

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CATHERINE GALASSO

Departed loved ones are never very far from us

Looking down from the heavens, departed loved ones are always with us. The memories of their words, the warmth of their smile and the love of their lives are alive in our hearts, providing comfort. They are just a thought away and their wisdom can continue to give us strength for the challenges that lie ahead.

It was one of the last things a dear mother wrote in her journal before she passed away: "When God calls, I will let you know when I arrive on the other side. I will ask Him to send a storm on the day of the funeral."

Bright blue and sunshine filled the sky, as family members and friends gathered to remember this mother so fondly. Not a cloud was to be found. The weather report called for clear and dry conditions for the next three days.

That afternoon, a luncheon was held in her memory and by 5:00 p.m. most of the guests had gone home. As the family was clearing the dishes from the dining room table, a loud rumble startled them. All at once, black clouds blanketed the sky and thousands of huge raindrops poured down in masses. Thunder and lightning filled them with solace, awe and joy as they found hope in the storm.

It has been said that death is far from being the end, but an open door to an existence larger, brighter and more blessed than this.

"I lost my wife after 40 years of marriage," a reader wrote. "We have four children and seven grandchildren, a blessing beyond words. A quote I read some months after my wife's passing was, 'Death ends a life, not a relationship' and in my case nothing has ever been so true."

Even though our loved ones can look over the banisters of heaven, they can never feel sorrow over our trials, for they know, like the Lord does, that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

His ultimate design for us is to have His love and live with Him eternally. Upon leaving this world, there is a world of endless sunshine, for we are children of the light. People who have experienced the light of great love at the end of a tunnel before being brought back to Earth have written about it in many books. We have been given these various examples so that we know they are not coincidences.

I have a friend whose mentor died suddenly of a heart attack on Christmas Eve. Shocked and in grief, she jumped into her car and drove 1 1/2 hours to get to her friend's house to comfort her children. As she was driving and crying, she was aware that another presence came into the car, one of great love and joy. She knew that it was the spirit of her friend and felt her friend saying, "Oh, I am so happy, so free and full of God. I will see you again and we will be together with Jesus in eternity."

This experience repeated itself three times before she got to her destination. What a comfort it was when she told her friend's children. It was like the woman who went to Jesus' tomb and came running back to the disciples saying, "He is risen, He is risen."

So, dear readers, I want to pass along to you the joy I feel when I look up to the stars at night and think, "My mother, great in her faith and thankfulness for the joys of life, must surely be in their midst." Sometimes, when the clouds part, I think of the light of her radiant smile and I know she still watches over me and my beloved family. And I know the angels, ministering to us, are carrying out the wishes of the Almighty.

"For He will give His angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways." Psalm 91:11.

Write to Catherine Galasso-Vigorito in care of Connecticut Guardian, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, Ct. 06105-3795 or e-mail her at cgv@anewyouworldwide.com.

Visit her website to see her new inspirational product line at www.anewyouworldwide.com

© Catherine Galasso, 2006



Need assistance?

Have questions?

Contact the

103rd Air Control

Squadron's

Family Support Program

by visiting its Website:

www.103rdacs.com

Visit the
Connecticut Guardian

on-line at

www.ct.ngb.army.mil



**HANDYPERSON
HOTLINE**



"CARRYING THE HOMEFRONT"

**SERGEANT MAJOR
TOBY P. CORMIER**
Ph: 860-441-2984

Cell: 860-209-0770

toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil



How does NORAD track Santa?

NORAD uses four high-tech systems to track Santa - radar, satellites, Santa Cams and jet fighter aircraft.

Detecting Santa all starts with the NORAD radar system called the North Warning System. This powerful radar system has 47 installations strung across the northern border of North America. NORAD makes a point of checking the radar closely for indications of Santa Claus leaving the North Pole on Christmas Eve.

The moment our radar tells us that Santa has lifted off, we use our second mode of detection, the same satellites that we use in providing warning of possible missile launches aimed at North America. These satellites are located in a geo-synchronous orbit (that's a cool phrase meaning that the satellite is always fixed over the same spot on the Earth) at 22,300 miles above the Earth. The satellites have infrared sensors, meaning they can detect heat. When a rocket or missile is launched, a tremendous amount of heat is produced - enough for the satellites to detect. Rudolph's nose gives off an infrared signature similar to a missile launch. The satellites can detect Rudolph's bright red nose with practically no problem. With so many years of experience, NORAD has become good at tracking aircraft entering North America, detecting worldwide missile

launches and tracking the progress of Santa, thanks to Rudolph.

The third detection system we use is the Santa Cam. We began using it in 1998 - the year we put our Santa Tracking program on the Internet. NORAD Santa Cams are ultra-cool high-tech high-speed digital cameras that are pre-positioned at many places around the world. NORAD only uses these cameras once a year - Christmas Eve. The cameras capture images of Santa and the Reindeer as they make their journey around the world. We immediately download the images on to our web site for people around the world to see. Santa Cams produce both video and still images.

The fourth detection system we use is the NORAD jet fighter. Canadian NORAD fighter pilots, flying the CF-18, take off out of Newfoundland to intercept and welcome Santa to North America. Then at numerous locations in Canada other CF-18 fighter pilots escort Santa. While in the United States, American NORAD fighter pilots in either the F-15 or F-16 get the thrill of flying with Santa and the famous Reindeer Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph. About a dozen NORAD fighters in Canada and the United States are equipped with Santa Cams.



Also on the NORAD Website

Santa Puzzle

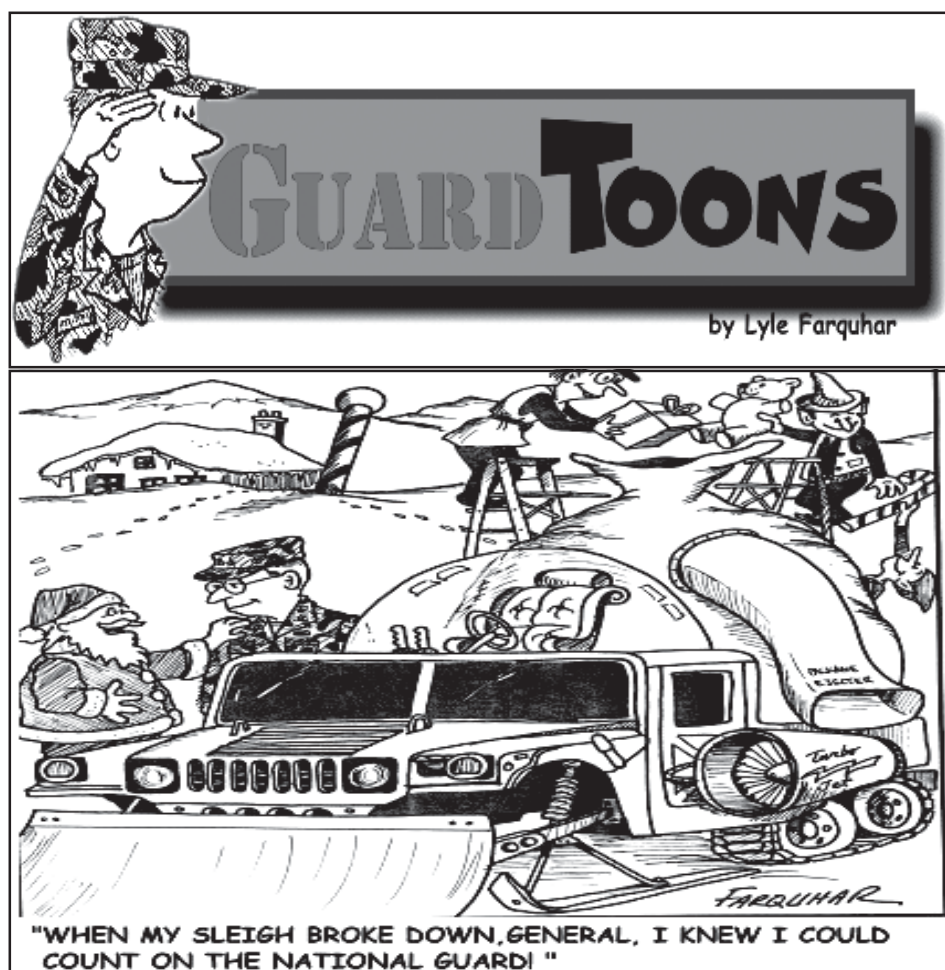
Countdown to Christmas

Coloring Book:
Gingerbread House
North Pole
Reindeer
Santa List
Snowman
Wreath

Maps

Bookmark

Christmas Music performed by:
The United States Air Force Academy Band
and
The Naden Band of Maritime Forces Pacific
Canadian Navy



Family Assistance Center locations

Family Assistance Centers are set-up in the following armories around the state:

Waterbury Armory
64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
(203) 574-2406 Toll Free 866-347-2291
Mrs. Tamara (Jex) Killian

Manchester Armory
330 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 646-0780 Toll Free 866-347-2286
Mr. Bert Saur & Mrs. Andrea Lathrop

103rd FW, Bradley ANG Base
Bldg 8, East Granby, CT 06026
(860) 292-2730
Mrs. Donna Rivera

Norwich Armory
38 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 883-6934
Mrs. Andrea Lathrop

103rd Air Control Squadron
206 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477
(203) 795-2983
Mr. Charlie and Mrs. Jane Solomon

Windsor Locks
Bldg. P123, Camp Hartell, Windsor Locks, CT 06096
(860) 386-4045
Mrs. Rita O'Donnell

Hartford Armory
360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795
1-800-858-2677
Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Mrs. Michelle McCarty,
Mrs. Melissa Tetro-Dow, Staff Sgt. Jessica McKenna-Boski,
Mrs. Trudy Kaufman, Ms. Elizabeth Rivera and Mrs. Karen Somes

Volunteers are needed in each facility.

Those wishing to help out can contact Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Family Program Manager at 1-800-858-2677. Any family member or loved one of a deployed soldier who has questions about benefits or deployment issues may also get answers to their question at the following email address:

kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil

Please visit our Website at www.ct.ngb.army.mil/family



POINSETTIAS



Materials - red paper, scissors, glitter - optional)

1. Start with any square piece of red paper. If you are using a standard sheet of paper, take a bottom corner and diagonal fold it across to the opposite side of the page. Cut off the 2.5 inch strip at the top of the page to create an 8.5 x 8.5 sheet of paper. Fold it in half. Fold it in half again creating a smaller square.
2. One corner will be all folds, the other three corners will have some open edges. Finding the fold corner is key to making a poinsettias. Turn the paper so that the fold corner is at the bottom.
3. Fold the corner on the right side over to the left side. You should now have a long, triangular paper, with the fold corner still at the bottom.
4. The dotted lines show where to cut to create your poinsettias. Throw away the two, small, triangular sections that are cut off.
5. Once you've got the right shape, cut two partial circles to create the petals.
6. If you have a hole punch, you can create the hole shown in the diagram.
7. The children can use glitter glue to decorate their poinsettias.

HISTORY OF THE POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias are a beautiful red flower from Mexico that blooms in December. According to legend, a brother and sister had no gift to give the Church in honor of the birth of Jesus. They brought green weeds and decorated around the nativity scene. Miraculously the flower bloomed in red and green stars. During the 17th century, Franciscan priests used the flowers during nativity processions. The first US ambassador to Mexico, Dr. Joel Poinsett brought the plant to the United States to be part of Christmas celebrations.



KID'S CREATIVE CORNER

A monthly feature
of fun and
educational
activities for the
children of the
Connecticut
National Guard